Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Anti-casino petitioner wants acting AG recused. PAGE 3
Man posing as a woman allegedly beats up two. PAGE 5

No Cape Air flights up to July 31

» United schedules extra flights to take up slack

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Cape Air flights between Saipan, Guam, and Rota have been cancelled through July 31 due to mechanical issues with its aircraft.

According to a United Airlines statement yesterday, it said that Cape Air flights have been cancelled since Thursday last week and that Cape Air's Maintenance Department continues to work on the mechanical issues.

While United did not elaborate on these mechanical issues, it assured that there would be a functional check flight before the aircraft is returned to normal operation. Cape Air uses an ATR-42 aircraft.

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LEFT TO ROT HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Vegetation claims the environs of the now-abandoned former Civil Service Commission office building on Capital Hill, in this photo taken yesterday, some two years since the commission moved to Garapan when a law returned the Office of Personnel Management to the Civil Service Commission to end political hiring. This is just one of former government buildings on island that have been blighted beyond repair.

Race against time on casino deal

» $30M up for Aug. 1 bank release
» Commission chair says draft CDA could be finalized today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Negotiations for an initial $2 billion casino development agreement are racing against time, with Lottery Commission chair Sixto Igisomar telling *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the $30 million held in escrow would be released by the bank on Aug. 1 to its original owners—the license applicants—if an exclusive ca-

See RACE on Page 4

Woman badly hurt in home invasion

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A man being investigated for rape was arrested Friday for allegedly breaking into a house in San Vicente and beating up and hitting a woman with an object, causing her serious injuries.

Alonzo Uchol Pedro Jr., 20, was served with an arrest warrant in Garapan for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, burglary, and criminal mischief.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $100,000 cash bail for Pedro's temporary release.

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OVERDRIVE
The 2015 Genesis sedan shows it has some fire in its feet.
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IT&E
The Best 4G Experience Has Arrived!

Local

OAG drops NMI's lawsuits vs business tycoon Millard, wife

The Office of the Attorney General asked the federal court yesterday to dismiss the income tax lawsuits filed by the CNMI government in 1993 against business tycoon William H. Millard and his wife.

Special assistant attorney general James R. Stump also asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to vacate the court's default judgments entered in 1994 in favor of the CNMI.

Stump made the requests after the CNMI and William and Patricia Millard entered into a settlement agreement. He did not disclose the amount that the Millards agreed to pay the CNMI.

The federal court entered on July 1, 1994, default judgments in favor of the Commonwealth and against William and Patricia Millard in the lawsuits on an assessed Northern Mariana Territorial Income Tax.

Stump said the parties on May 20, 2014, entered into a settlement agreement that effectively releases and discharges the Commonwealth's claims against the Millards.

The CNMI government tax claim against the Millards totaled $118 million. The default judgments found the Millards liable to pay the Commonwealth $36.6 million.

The then-Fitial administration tapped the New York-based law firm Kobre & Kim to pursue the Commonwealth's tax claim. The law firm tracked William Millard to the Grand Cayman Island in the western Caribbean in 2010.

Millard sold his interests in ComputerLand Corp. retail chain for over $200 million while he and his family were living on Saipan decades ago. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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July 25
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Petitioner wants acting AG recused from casino referendum review

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Concerned citizen Leila Staffler is seeking acting Attorney General Gilbert Birnbrich's recusal from reviewing, certifying, or making any decision on pending referendum petitions to reject Saipan casino laws over what she said is a conflict of interest because Birnbrich is a member of the Lottery Commission that approved a conditional grant of a casino license to one of two applicants.

Staffler is leading the referendum petitions that she said has garnered over 3,000 voters' signatures.

The petitioners want the question on a Saipan casino be put on the ballot for voters' ratification this November.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when sought for comment, said the administration "does not find a conflict of interest because Mr. Birnbrich does not decide on referendum petitions."

"The Office of the Attorney General only verifies the validity of signatures that have been affixed on the petitions," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said this review process is conducted by the Office of the Attorney General's staff and assistant attorneys general as well.

"In the end, the findings of the OAG can easily be reviewed by any citizen who wishes to by examining the signatures in question," Demapan added.

On July 7, Staffler submitted to OAG referendum petitions to reject the Saipan casino laws, Public Laws 18-38 and 18-43. They are still under OAG review.

Birnbrich is one of four members of the Lottery Commission that received and reviewed Saipan casino license applications and later voted "yes" to grant a conditional approval for a license to Best Sunshine International Ltd. The Lottery Commission and Best Sunshine are still negotiating a casino development agreement that will lead to a final grant of a casino license. The other applicant was Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc.

Staffler said there is clearly a conflict of interest, and Birnbrich should recuse himself from the process involving the review and certification of the casino referendum petitions.

She also handed a referendum petition to reject Public Law 18-30 or the electronic gaming law, but Birnbrich already certified that the e-gaming referendum petition does not meet the constitutionally required number of signatures and therefore should not be presented to voters in November.

Birnbrich, in a July 21 letter to the Commonwealth Election Commission stating the decision on the e-gaming referendum petition, said in the past, the Election Commission assisted with the certification process and reviewed the petitions on behalf of the attorney general.

This year, however, due to the influx of candidate petitions, the Election Commission could not provide the same level of assistance with the certification process—for example, reviewing the petitions in their entirety.

"To address this issue, the Election Commission provided the voter registration list (which includes, among other things, the name, address, precinct and date of birth for each registered voter) and agreed to compare signatures for entries that were flagged for signature checks," Birnbrich said.

In his letter, Birnbrich said he himself reviewed the electronic gaming petition to verify whether it included the requisite number of signatures.

The petitioners led by Staffler pointed out that Birnbrich will do the same with the review of the Saipan casino petitions.

OVR sets plans for fiscal year 2015

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation has set its state plan for fiscal year 2015, outlining four goals that aim to improve its services and outlines its priorities.

Those four goals are: (1) striving to deliver quality and timely services to applicants and consumers; (2) serving as an advocate for individuals with disabilities; (3) working closely with the Workforce Investment Agency; and (4) transitioning students with disabilities to employment or continued education.

OVR first goal will involve conducting staff performance evaluation on a semi-annual basis to maintain an effective program management system; doing presentations on Tinian and Rota; strengthening collaboration with disability stakeholders, including the Division of Public Health and Department of Labor; and ensuring that assistive technology is made available to individuals with disabilities.

Another part of their first goal is to create an "individualized plan for employment" that will maximize services for training, job search, and placement purposes, including outreach to the private sector.

OVR's second goal includes increasing employer awareness of vocational rehabilitation programs and the "viability and benefits" of hiring qualified individuals with disabilities. This will involve conducting education activities among employers or businesses.

OVR aims to meet its second goal by working with the Office of the Governor and mayor's offices, and partnering with agencies in community outreach.

OVR's third goal includes cost share training with WIA to ensure continued collaboration for the integration of services.

"OVR will continue its efforts toward the development and implementation of memorandums of understanding with WIA and DOL," the plan states.

The fourth goal for OVR seeks to transition at least 15 percent of the total number of seniors receiving special education services.

"OVR will continue with outreach activities, including its co-location practice at the five public high schools to increase visibility and accessibility, perform intakes, assist with applications, and conduct question-and-answer sessions," the plan states.

OVR will also include the Public School System Special Education program and the Northern Marianas College for its outreach programs, including other disability stakeholder agencies to encourage individuals with disabilities interested in achieving employment, and include training programs for individuals with disabilities.

OVR also stated that in the course of fiscal year 2014, they will continue to meet regularly with PSS and NMC officials to review and monitor their interagency agreements and other necessary activities before fiscal year 2015.

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OPA denies firm's appeal on landfill security services

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor denied a private firm's procurement appeal related to proposed security services at the Marpi landfill. OPA, at the same time, said the Division of Procurement and Supply erred in its analysis of OPA's jurisdiction and whether or not the cancellation of a solicitation can be protested.

OPA posted the decision online last week.

The OPA decision dated April 14, 2014, concurred by Public Auditor Michael Pai, denies Mary's Security Services' appeal of the cancellation of a Department of Public Works request for proposals in 2012.

In the same decision, OPA said if DPW or the director of Procurement and Supply wishes to terminate a contract with another private security agency, Island Protection Services, it must be done pursuant to the terms of the contract or the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

DPW published on Oct. 9, 2012 a request for proposals for security services at the Marpi landfill.

After evaluation and discussions with participating firms, a contract with Mary's Security Services was routed for signature and approval on Jan. 15, 2013.

Due to objections and questions by the Office of the Attorney General about Mary's Security Services' selection, the routing process was halted and the not-yet-formed contract was cancelled on May 15, 2013. The Department of Finance de-obligated the funds for the contract.

A day later, a contract with Island Protection Services was circulated among required government agencies for approval. Procurement certified the IPS contract on June 7, and authorized DPW to issue a notice to proceed.

Mary's Security Services protested the award to IPS on June 24. Two months later, Procurement denied Mary's Security Services' protest from which the firm timely appealed to OPA on Aug. 7, 2013.

On Sept. 25, Procurement cancelled the RFP. Procurement said because DPW notified the other "offerors" after the contract had been awarded, the contract was "invalid."

Mary's Security wrote to OPA on Sept. 30, 2013, asking that OPA retain jurisdiction over Mary's Security's appeal rather than dismiss it as moot, due to the cancellation action that Procurement took.

Nonetheless, OPA dismissed Mary's Security's appeal and instructed it to first file a protest with Procurement if it wanted to complain about the RFP's cancellation.

IPS also filed a protest over the RFP's cancellation.

Procurement denied on Oct. 16, 2013 both companies' protests over the RFP's cancellation, stating that a protest over the cancellation of a solicitation was not provided for in the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Mary's Security timely appealed to OPA the Procurement's denial of its protest over the cancellation. IPS did not appeal.

OPA said it has jurisdiction to decide Mary's Security's appeal over the RFP cancellation.

Mary's Security's complaints in its protest and appeal of the RFP cancellation is that it will be unduly prejudiced by the cancellation after bid opening and that the Procurement director failed to show any compelling reason to cancel the RFP.

OPA said while it agrees that cancellation of a solicitation after bid opening is disfavored and can prejudice parties whose bid information becomes public, the procurement regulations grant wide discretion to procurement officials in making such determinations.

In this instance, OPA said, the DPW secretary made the determination that the RFP's cancellation was in the CNMI government's best interest.

'NMC proactive in pursuit of grants, additional funds'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Faced with scant local government support, the Northern Marianas College is diligently pursuing additional funds and resources, with several applications for federal grants filed this month and last.

At a Board of Regents meeting last week, NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart commended faculty and staff for the hours they put in applying for grants amidst deadlines between the end of June and the first of July.

"We had three significant grants that had to go in. We had different individuals leading the different grants and faculty coming in. It was a major, major endeavor," Hart said.

According to Amanda Allen, NMC'S distance learning coordinator and accreditation liaison officer, the grant that looks "most promising" is from the U.S. Department of Education's GEAR UP program.

The GEAR UP program is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter college by providing states six-year grants to assist financially challenged high schools in preparing students for college, including grants for colleges to provide low-income students with scholarships, according to the USDOE website.

If the grant is approved, NMC would receive $1.8 million, Allen said.

Another grant that NMC applied for is the First in the World Program. According to the USDOE, grants are competitive and are awarded to innovative higher education institutions dedicated to increasing college access, affordability, and completion for underrepresented and low-income students.

Allen noted the college would get about $4 million if the grant is awarded them.

Hart said the college continues to work hard for additional funds and resources despite its many challenges.

"We are trying to be very proactive out there," she said.

One challenge is that some programs made eligible for other U.S. territories and districts like Puerto Rico and Washington D.C. are not made eligible for the Commonwealth, she said.

Hart said she has been "extremely vocal" about this exclusion in meetings with USDOE officials.

One program that NMC is ineligible for is the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant.

"We in the Pacific are not eligible for the TAACCT grant," Hart said.

She noted that Hawaii institutions received a total of $28 million from the program, making them the No. 1 recipient of the grant in the last three years.

"And here we sit and we can't even apply," Hart said, adding that the college continues to raise this issue with UDOE officials.

Hart thanked her staff for their hard work in applying for the grants.

"We had conference calls at 4:00 in the morning so we could be involved in these conversations and get these grants out right," Hart said.

WOMAN

From Page 1

Preliminary hearing will be on Aug. 5 at 1:30pm.

A doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center told police that the victim, an Asian woman, sustained blunt force injuries, laceration and bruises on the right side of her head, and abrasions on her left bicep and back. The cut on her head required six stitches, her middle finger nail almost came off, her left arm was bruised, and had scratches on the back, as well as neck pain.

Police detective Elias Q. Saralu stated in his report that when a detective showed her a photo line-up, the victim immediately identified Pedro. She was reportedly shaking and looked very scared. A detective had to tell the victim several times to breathe, relax, and calm down.

Saralu said that two police officers were dispatched to the Bay View Apartment in San Vicente last July 20 at 5:41am, for an injured person case. When the officers arrived at the apartment, medics were already attending to the victim.

During an interview with a detective the following day, the victim related that she was sleeping on the couch in the living room of her apartment between 5:30am to 6am when she heard a noise coming from outside the front door.

When the victim looked out from the living room window, she saw a man who was later identified as Pedro, trying to open the front door of her apartment.

As he was trying to open the door, Pedro kept asking the victim if he could use her telephone. The victim told him to go away or she would call the police.

Pedro, however, managed to break the front door. As she was grabbing her cell phone to call the police, the suspect ran behind her, choked her and covered her mouth.

The victim bit Pedro's left arm, but he continued choking her. She was screaming for help during the struggle that lasted about five to 10 minutes.

Pedro then hit the victim's head with an object, causing her to lose consciousness. When she regained consciousness after a few seconds, she saw Pedro pick something up from the ground and ran away.

A male neighbor then arrived to assist the victim. By that time, Pedro had already fled toward the main road.

The victim told police that prior to the incident, she saw Pedro twice roaming in the parking lot of the apartment and then disappearing into a trail in the bushy area.

On July 22, police showed the victim a photo line-up that included Pedro, who was investigated for a rape case that happened in San Vicente in June. Without hesitation, the victim positively identified Pedro as the one who attacked her, Saralu said.

Saipan Tribune learned that in May 2012, Pedro, who was then 18, was arrested for allegedly breaking into a house of a female teenager in Chalan Laulau at 3:37am.

RACE

From Page 1

sino license is not granted this week.

This means the Lottery Commission and Best Sunshine would have to wrap up their negotiations this week, unless the parties agree to amend the escrow agreement with Bank of Guam anew.

Igisomar said they are now reviewing a "draft casino development agreement" that could be finalized as early as today.

"Generally, the negotiation between the Lottery Commission and Best Sunshine is moving and so far, things are favorable," Igisomar, also the Commerce secretary, said in an interview at his office on Capital Hill.

He said there is "an Aug. 1 deadline" they are trying to meet.

"I believe on Aug. 1st, this Friday, if there is no decision on full award [of a license], then the funds will be released by the bank back to the owners of the fund," Igisomar said.

The $30 million held in escrow—a contractual arrangement in which a third party, in this case Bank of Guam, receives and disburses funds or documents for the primary transacting parties—represents a two-year advance annual casino license fee.

Best Sunshine and Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc. each deposited $30 million in escrow as part of the casino license application process, on top of a $1 million nonrefundable application fee that they each paid.

That $30 million will be used to pay retirees' deferred 25-percent pension and pay the interest on former defined benefit plan members' withdrawn contribution.

Acting Senate president Victor Hocog (R-Rota) conceded yesterday that while the casino license negotiations are about to wrap up, the retirement settlement fund trustee has yet to release the specific breakdown for the $2.9 million representing the deferred 25-percent pension payment for off-island residents or retirees.

The Rota and Tinian Legislative Delegations have to appropriate funds for the distribution of the deferred pension.

Trustee Civille & Tang said an estimated $11.05 million of the total $16.4 million is for Saipan residents or retirees, while $1.35 million is for Rota residents and $1.05 million is for Tinian residents. The remaining $2.95 million is for off-island residents or retirees.

"The delegations would have wanted the trustee to disburse the funds since they're the ones disbursing the 75 percent. But we need to know the breakdown for the $2.95 million so we can make specific appropriations for the 25-percent pension and other programs in our senatorial districts," Hocog said in a separate interview.

As of yesterday, there is still no telling whether Civille & Tang or the CNMI Department of Finance would process the payments.

Moreover, the Lottery Commission and Best Sunshine negotiations face some sticky issues, it was learned. These include the location of the hotels and casinos.

During an executive session last week, the commission called in Best Sunshine for new and follow-up questions related to the integrated casino resort development.

The four-member Lottery Commission gave Best Sunshine on July 15 a conditional approval for a casino license, pending negotiations and the signing of a casino development agreement.

Best Sunshine was chosen over Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc. for the exclusive development of an integrated casino resort on Saipan with at least 2,000 rooms that should be built from the ground up, and a minimum investment of $2 billion.

"It is still an active, ongoing engagement between the commission and Best Sunshine," Igisomar added.

CAPE AIR

From Page 1

Meanwhile, United scheduled extra flights from Guam to Saipan, Rota and Guam yesterday evening.

"We strongly feel that it is necessary for United to assist the affected passengers while Cape Air ensure operational reliability," said Sam Shinohara, United's managing director, Business Development Asia/Pacific.

According to United, an extra flight was scheduled to depart Guam at 7pm yesterday evening and arrive on Saipan at 7:41pm. The same flight was scheduled to leave Saipan for Rota at 8:26pm and land at the Rota International Airport at 8:51pm. It was then scheduled to leave Rota at 9:30pm for Guam, arriving at 10:04pm.

According to United, they will continue to assist affected passengers as Cape Air works to ensure operational reliability.

The operational reliability of Cape Air, among other things, has been a growing concern to members of the public.

Rose Hocog's petition calling on local and federal agencies and the public to look into Cape Air's service in hope of improvement in quality and reliability has grown to over 200 signatures, according to her, about half as much as reported by *Saipan Tribune* last month.

"The airplane [Cape Air uses] is constantly having mechanical issues. I am worried about the safety of the travelers and crew," Hocog said in an interview.

She called on affected passengers to join her in signing her petition.

She also wishes to form a protest group and picket the Legislature in hopes of getting local officials' support in improving Cape Air's service.

"It has come to this," Hocog said.

She said her goals are to get the Commonwealth Ports Authority board, United Airlines, and other federal agencies to force Cape Air to provide a "new and better airplane" without raising fare prices.

EPA incurs $3.5M in unreimbursed cleanup costs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

- CUC claims inability to finance power plants oil contamination cleanup
- EPA expects to spend $2M more in the future

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency claims that it has incurred millions in unreimbursed dollars to clean up the oil contamination at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base.

U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien disclosed that, although it is CUC's obligation under the stipulated order No. 2, CUC claims an inability to finance the Power Plant 1 and 2 cleanup.

Although all oil sources have not been determined, significant contributors to the contamination include Tank 101, Tank 104, and the oil/water separator system located near the ocean between Power Plants 1 and 2, said O'Brien in EPA's July 29 report filed in federal court on Friday.

Stipulated order No. 2 focuses on oil issues such as repairing and replacing oil storage and operation infrastructure, managing tank and pipeline facilities, and requiring spill and emergency response equipment and protocol.

EPA environmental engineer and on-scene coordinator Michelle Rogow disclosed in her declaration that EPA has spent to date about $3.5 million in costs associated with the cleanup and anticipates spending $2 million more in the future.

Rogow said that, as part of the stipulated order No. 2, CUC was required to submit a Power Plants 1 and 2 workplan to conduct a more comprehensive environmental investigation of the facility and propose necessary cleanup measures to ensure that no oil is being discharged or poses a threat of discharge to the environment from the two power plants.

EPA informed CUC that it was extremely concerned about ongoing and potential future discharges of oil to the adjacent beach, in violation of the Clean Water Act, and that a cleanup needed to be conducted.

Rogow said that, on March 17, 2011, CUC responded that it doesn't have the funds to do the cleanup.

"Since March 2011, EPA has been working to address the oil contamination at Power Plants 1 and 2," the environmental engineer stated.

O'Brien said EPA completed the initial response phase that addressed the significant contamination and included excavation and removal of an oil/water separator system and associated leach field, installation of a 400-foot-long interceptor trench along the shoreline, and installation of three recovery trenches.

He said the excavation of the leach field is intended to remove the ongoing discharge and prevent oil from continuing to migrate into the ocean.

O'Brien said the interceptor trench is intended to prevent continued oil migration into the ocean, while the recovery trenches are designed to extract oil from the subsurface.

He said the trenches and the recovery system have been operating for about two years and some 700 gallons of oil have been recovered from the subsurface.

O'Brien said that CUC has completed oil contamination assessments at Power Plants 1 and 2 and Power Plant 4.

He disclosed in the July 29 report that CUC's assessments, in conjunction with broader EPA sampling, determined that Power Plants 1 and 2, Power Plant 4, Power Plant 3, and the Rota Power Plant were contaminated with oil, and Power Plants 3 and 4, and the Rota Power Plant with polychlorinated biphenyls or PCBs.

Man posing as a woman allegedly beats up two

A drunk man posing as a woman allegedly beat up a man and a woman for no apparent reason in Koblerville Thursday night.

Suspect Jason Tira, 23, when spotted by police, was dressed in female clothing and was imitating a woman's voice.

Tira was arrested on charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace. His bail was set at $250 cash and $4,750 in unsecured bond.

Police detective Therese S. Kintoki stated in her report that a police officer responded to a report of a disturbance at the KB Store parking lot in Koblerville on Thursday, July 24, at 8:09pm.

Kintoki said the officer came upon a woman who was holding her neck and was complaining of severe neck pain. The woman was shaking and gasping for breath. Medics were summoned to the scene.

The victim told the police that she had been sitting on the bench when she saw Tira pushing and slapping a man in the back. Tira then allegedly approached her, slapped her on the face, and pulled her hair. While attacking the woman, Tira was allegedly saying he can beat up anyone there.

The male victim told police that the suspect came out of nowhere and started pushing him.

The two victims said the suspect was wearing a green shirt and Capri-type pants and was posing as a woman.

At 10:31pm that same day, a caller informed the Department of Public Safety that Tira was seen at the former David Market.

A few minutes later, a police officer came and approached Tira, who looked drunk and had a strong odor of alcoholic beverage.

The officer said that Tira was dressed in women's clothing and was imitating a woman's voice when he interviewed him. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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CUC to address 'inaccuracies' in DOJ filings

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Alan Fletcher said that CUC intends to address in today's court hearing the U.S Department of Justice's filings that contain "numerous inaccuracies or left out relevant facts."

According to Fletcher, CUC previously filed an extensive update to the court on July 17, 2014, providing information and updates on the pipeline and Tank 102 projects.

"However, on Friday, July 25, the day before I was to travel to California, the U.S Department of Justice filed a set of documents totaling 97 pages. These filings included multiple declarations by Environmental Protection Agency technical personnel on a far range of projects that CUC has, and is addressing, under the stipulated orders," Fletcher said.

He said the filings from DOJ "vastly expands" the matter beyond the pipeline and tank 102 projects.

According to Fletcher, the filings were made after DOJ was put on notice that CUC would have to travel to a status conference in California and with less than "one business day to respond."

Fletcher told *Saipan Tribune* that CUC's technical staff worked through the weekend putting together individual declarations and formal responses to the court.

"Myself and CUC's legal counsel James Sirok will be working on these responses right up to the court hearing," Fletcher said.

He said that acting attorney general Gil Birnbrich will be attending on behalf of the CNMI government and will be the one coordinating their responses.

"I feel these filings have prejudiced the utility and thrown it off balance with competing demands as it attempts to address the actual issues requested by the court," Fletcher said.

"In addition, the nature of the filing is not appropriate against our struggling public utility which is doing its best to marshal its limited resources for the good of its customers," he added.

Among the issues raised by DOJ in its July 25 filing was the lack certified operators for the water and wastewater operations.

According to CUC's quarterly report for stipulated order no. 1, many of its direct responsible charge or DRC operators left CUC in late February 2013 and CUC is recruiting by using in-house promotion for qualified operators.

"CUC now has 21 certified staff and hopes to fill these and future positions with local staff," CUC stated.

DOJ also claims that CUC continues to have meter failures. CUC states that it has completed a "98.5 percent metered system-wide" and that CUC has the ability to identify and change out failed meters but "there is limited funding available to purchase additional meter stocks."

CUC stated that it continues to struggle financially, due to the struggling economy and government debt totaling $25 million in unpaid utility bills.

"CUC has no working capital and no reserves to ride out long periods of non-payment, which results in underfunded operations, such as deferred maintenance, lack of supplies for typhoon readiness, and lack of monies for capital improvements and stipulated order projects," CUC stated.

CHCC to transition staff out of housing perk

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Instead of an abrupt cutoff in the housing benefits being provided its off-island hires, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will be transitioning its employees out of this benefit over a period of time, according to CEO Esther Muña yesterday.

"It was decided that rather than removing the benefit one time and immediately risk an exodus of our clinical staff, we would gradually remove the benefits as appropriate and at contract negotiation," Muña said.

She explained that the law that provided this benefit to the hospital's off-island hires had a sunset provision that expired several years ago, which means housing benefits are no longer mandated.

"The decision to keep it, even with the sunset provision, was made prior to the establishment of the corporation," she said.

Muña earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the housing allowance would be stopped by the end of this fiscal year in September.

Muna said the decision to gradually phase out the housing allowance was made because it is difficult to recruit and "almost all of the clinical staff and medical staff are recipients of this benefit."

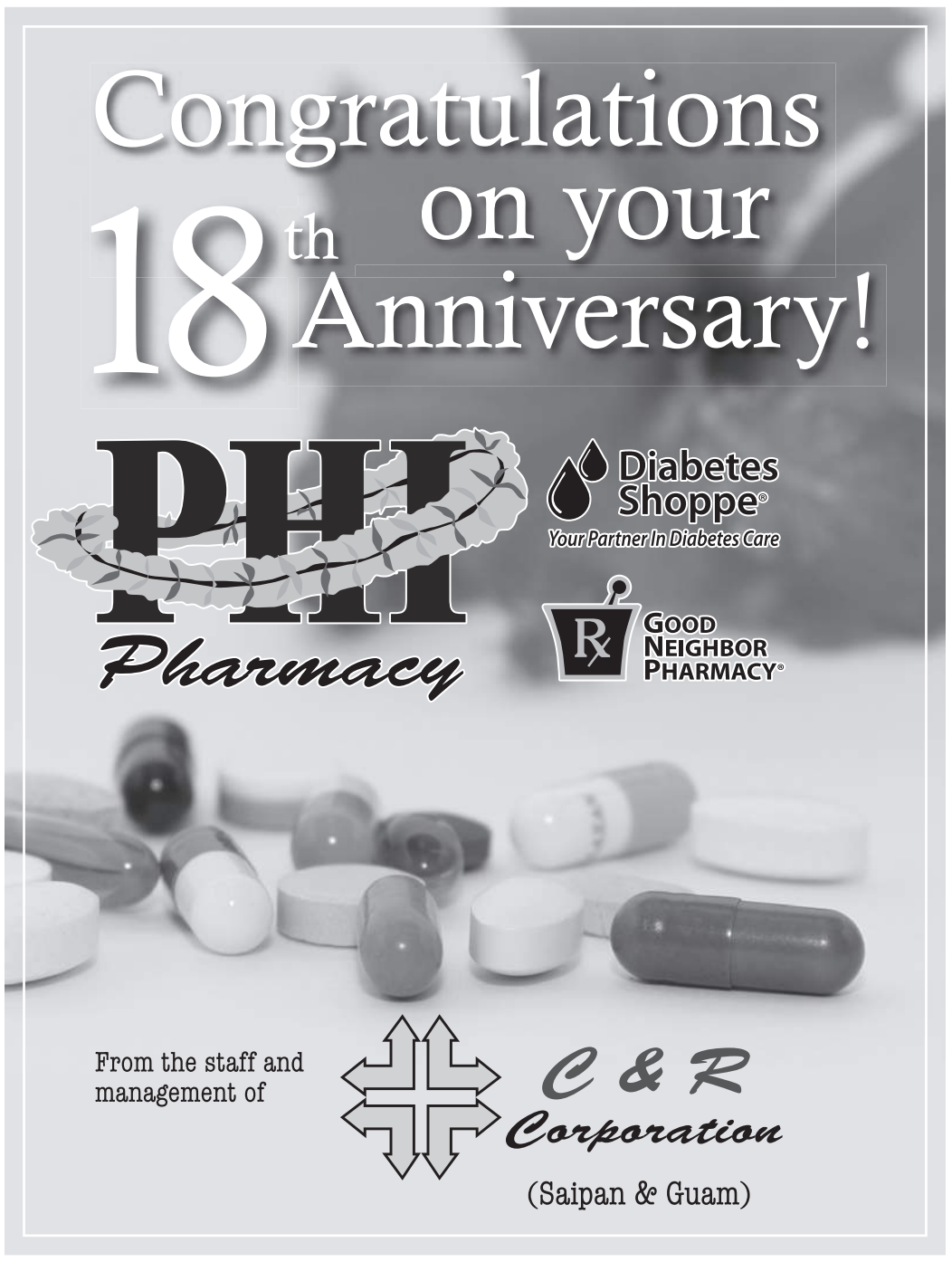
The housing allowance is provided to medical staff and providers that are hired from outside the Commonwealth. The perk is $600 a month for single employees and $800 a month for those with families.

Based on CHCC records, it has over 100 employees that receive this benefit, mostly nurses recruited from the Philippines way back in the days of the Department of Public Health.

Muña said that none of the physicians at the hospital have the benefit.

"Also, no housing benefit is offered for new contracts for any clinical staff. Only nurses and ancillary staff with existing contracts maintained such benefit," she said.

Muña noted that CHCC is not required to offer such benefits anymore but the transitioning is something CHCC is willing to do because "we care and understand the difficulty of transitioning."



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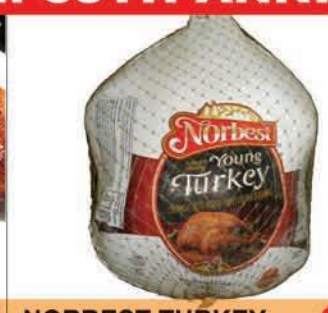

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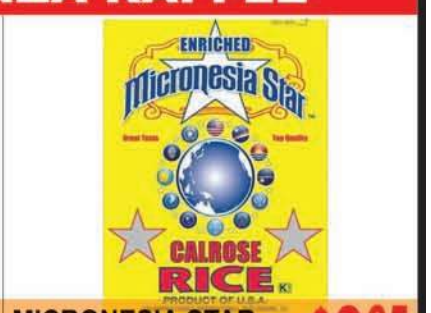

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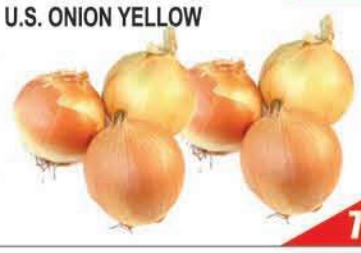

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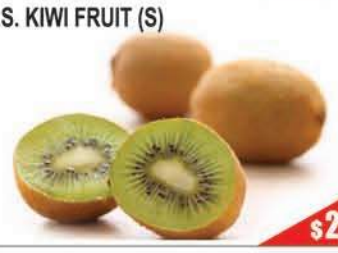

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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Quichocho insists Kim failed to prove racketeering claims

Disbarred lawyer Ramon K. Quichocho is insisting that businesswoman Jung Ja Kim failed to prove that he engaged in a "pattern of racketeering activity" and that the federal court should issue a judgment in his favor.

A party alleging a Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act (RICO) violation may demonstrate continuity over a closed period of proving a series of related predicates extending over a substantial period of time, said Quichocho and his counsel, Michael Dotts, in their supplemental brief.

The brief was in support of their motion for a judgment—notwithstanding the verdict—or for a new trial.

Quichocho and Dotts said that Kim failed to present any evidence that the predicate acts are the same or similar in purpose, results, participants, victims, or methods of commission.

"Therefore, the court should find that the predicate acts are not related," the lawyers said.

Dotts said Quichocho and co-defendants are unable to list any specific fact to support the jury's findings of money laundering, wire fraud, and a pattern of racketeering activity.

The jury trial in Kim's racketeering lawsuit against Quichocho, his wife, and his law firm lasted almost two months.

In March 28, a federal jury reached a unanimous verdict, holding Quichocho, his wife, and his law firm liable to pay $2.4 million in damages to Jung Ja Kim, who filed a racketeering lawsuit against them.

The jury, however, found Kim liable to pay Quichocho and his law firm $48,221.67 in legal fees.

Quichocho and his wife, Frances, and co-defendants, through counsel Dotts, have asked the court to issue a judgment that favors them, despite the jury's verdict.

In the alternative, the Quichochos asked for a new trial based on juror misconduct.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho recently ordered Quichocho's disbarment from the practice of law in CNMI courts for professional misconduct in representing his then-client, Jung Ja Kim.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman also recently ordered a public reprimand against Quichocho for professional misconduct in connection with another Bar complaint filed by a couple. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DESPITE PERSONNEL ISSUES

NMC CREES moves forward

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Sharon Hart and other college leaders expressed confidence in the future of NMC's Cooperative Research Extension Services program during last week's Board of Regents meeting.

"We are moving forward with strengthening CREES operations on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian to ensure that we continue to provide quality services and programs to farmers, ranchers, and other stakeholders," said Hart.

Some farmers have expressed doubts about the program's future with the college's recent decision to let go of CREES director Manglona.

As per policy, the college does not comment on matters dealing with specific personnel issues.

As of last week, CREES staff on Rota was down to one employee, while Tinian has four, according to CREES staff member Patricia Coleman during a presentation.

Michael Ogo, who works with CREES in the area of aquaculture, said the low number was due to staff turnover.

According to Hart, vacancies are being addressed, as positions will be announced for hiring within the next few weeks.

She also said the position of CREES dean and director will be filled "at the soonest possible time."

A presentation by led Coleman, Ogo, and Dr. Jang Kim expressed confidence in the program's future ability to provide services to the community.

Ogo said they are looking into working with a local farmers co-op to develop a community kitchen on top of the soon-to- open Garapan Public Market. This way, farmers could turn in extra produce to the community kitchen.

Hart emphasized the college would continue to strengthen its relationships with federal programs that provide funding through grants and other financial assistance to CREES.

"Our CREES team is filled with highly skilled and talented professionals who will be able to ensure there is no interruption in key services," she added.

Atkins Kroll offers a brand new 2015 Scion FR-S to TOC

Atkins Kroll (Saipan) Toyota has just announced that it will be offering up a brand new 2015 Scion FR-S that will be featured as a hole-in-one prize in this weekend's Tournament of Champions.

"We have seen first hand the island beautification projects and other activities that have been made possible by funds raised from the Tournament of Champions," said Doug Brennan, General Manager of Atkins Kroll (Saipan) Toyota. "We are excited to be a part of this year's tournament and wish all the golf players luck."

"Atkins Kroll (Saipan) Toyota's selection of a beautiful sports car that is known for its sleek design, powerful performance, and innovative technology is sure to be a huge draw at this year's tournament," said Ben Babauta, tournament director. "We are grateful for the company's contribution and its longstanding commitment to TOC."

The 19th Annual Tournament of Champions will be played at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort's East & West Courses on Aug. 2 and 3. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $185.

First place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior and Super Senior Flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 for second, $300 for third, a digital camera to fourth, and $100 DFS gift certificate for fifth place. The Ladies Low Gross champion will receive $500, $400 for second, and $300 for third place. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will receive a trophy.

There will be hundreds of thousands worth of prizes that will be at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes that include other brand new vehicles donated by Triple J Motors and Joeten Motors. Pacifica Insurance is also sponsoring a $5,000 cash prize as a hole-in-one prize, while Saipan Laolao Golf & Resort is also offering one year of free golf as another hole-in-one prize as well. Delta Air Lines and Asiana Airlines are also offering airline tickets as hole-in-one prizes.

The tournament will also be featuring $1,000 cash prizes for closest to pin competitions.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2014 TOC, contact Babauta at 483-2563 or Marida Pensader at 236-2530. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocSaipan.com. ***(TOC)***

Atkins Kroll (Saipan) Toyota representatives present the company's donation of a brand new 2015 Scion FR-S that will be featured as a hole-in-one prize at the 2014 Tournament of Champions on Aug. 2 and 3. From left to right: Marida Pensader, Liza Taylor, Mark Sablan, Marie Sablan, Elna Tighe, Ben Babauta, Jack Salas, Doug Brennan, and Mark Moss.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tropical disturbance headed to Marianas

A tropical disturbance was located yesterday north-northwest of Chuuk and is seen heading toward the Marianas. It was about 375 miles east-southeast of Guam and 370 miles southeast of Saipan, according to the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Satellite imagery shows a gradually developing circulation center moving toward the west-northwest and the Mariana Islands. This circulation is now the subject of a tropical cyclone formation alert from the Joint Typhoon Warning Center. The system has developed over the past 12 hours.

Although it is still too early to tell how strong the wind threat will be for the Marianas, the National Weather Service in Guam expects an increase in winds as well as an increase in heavy showers with isolated thunderstorms to begin sometime today, Tuesday, and continue into Thursday and will closely monitor this system over the next couple of days as it approaches and passes the islands.

The public is being urged to stay informed on this developing weather situation.

CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management will be monitoring the movement of this tropical disturbance and will be issuing bulletins as they become available. Official bulletins will be available through local media sources and NOAA weather radio broadcast on 162.5 megahertz, or call the CNMI EOC Dispatch Center at 237-8000 or dial 211, and for the Northern Islands to contact the EOC Dispatch Center at high frequency single side band radio on frequency 5.205.0. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Congress should act to close the metadata gaps

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times *on Wednesday, July 23:*

Of all of Edward Snowden's revelations about electronic surveillance by the National Security Agency, the most unsettling was that the government was accumulating vast numbers of records about the telephone calls of American citizens. In May, the House approved a bill that would end the bulk collection of so-called telephone metadata, but time is running out for the Senate to approve a similar—and we hope stronger—version of the legislation.

After Snowden revealed that the government was vacuuming up telephone metadata—information about the source, destination and duration of phone calls—President Barack Obama was initially nonchalant, assuring the American people that there was no problem because "nobody is listening to your telephone calls."

But the public soon realized that the government possessed information that could reveal a host of details about their daily lives. Eventually, Obama endorsed the recommendation of an advisory review group that the government stop collecting metadata. Instead, such data would remain with telephone companies and be "queried" by the government only with a court order. A query is a search in which a telephone number believed to be associated with a terrorist can be matched to a call in the database.

Acting on his own, Obama has implemented part of that recommendation by agreeing to obtain court approval for searches of telephone records. The so-called USA Freedom Act passed by the House would put into effect the other half of the review group's recommendation by ending the bulk collection and storage of phone records by the government. But last-minute alterations in the House bill, urged by the administration, expanded the definition of the terms the NSA could use in searches of telephone and other records in a way that civil libertarians worried might have allowed the government to circumvent the ban on bulk collection of phone records.

In negotiating with senators on their version of the legislation, the administration has addressed that concern. The intelligence community has agreed to a stricter definition of the search terms. Such an agreement could clear the way for action by the Senate before it begins its August recess and the president's signature on a final bill before the end of the year.

Ending bulk collection of telephone records and writing judicial review into the law wouldn't address all the threats to Americans' privacy revealed by Snowden. Congress also must establish new safeguards for information about Americans "incidentally" collected in electronic surveillance of foreigners living abroad. But it would be an important first step in reestablishing an appropriate and overdue balance between national security and personal privacy.

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Genius Bar and the Geek Squad

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

One of Apple's genius is marketing. I consume with some tech savvy since I left my Atari for the Mac in '84. A friend in the '60s attended a community college close to Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, and Cupertino. He often mentioned the garage efforts of two enterprising guys.

I lugged one of Wozniak's Mac portables in '84 to Siquijor in the Philippines, and other points of NEDA Region VI's coverage, cut stencils on a dot matrix printer, and ran them on the local mimeos. This was for community development programs with a watershed focus from the upland to the nearshore, devolutionizing program development from the national to the local agency level. The portable came in handy and my regret is not holding on to the Mac that sat in my sister's garage for a while until the kids decided to help clean it up. It now commands considerable collector's value.

Those unfamiliar with Apple Stores that Jobs inspired for its products before he disappeared to the virtual sky in cyberspace's Cloud can imagine tables displaying computers that the sales staff, now attired in light blue, are only too glad to acquaint consumers of their virtues without mentioning the price. (I bought the Mac portable *sans* sight in Manila for a fifth more than its advertised cost.)

I stayed Apple faithful until an iPad in 2012, my last whimsical purchase. It was not useful to me in China unless I paid a monthly fee in Hong Kong. It made for an impressive but expensive gift. I used my MacBook Pro and Air enough, except when I bought a Bose speaker that could not Bluetooth-connect both simultaneously.

I also picked up an external HD that I did not have any problem using, at first. However, after I upgraded OS in NA, I no longer could read the NT-windows pre-formatted HD. So, I moseyed over to Apple to chat with the folks in blue.

I counted eight unoccupied blue shirts, four Genius Bar associates, and a lone customer. When I got to the bar, I was told that they could not talk to me without an appointment. "Are you busy?" I asked. "No. But it is our policy not to talk to anyone without an appointment," an associate rather arrogantly replied.

Rules are rules, I graciously conceded, capping my seething displeasure, so I went outside the store to connect for an appointment. The mall was WiFi equipped. I sought my host son's buddy working at Apple but he was not there. A sales associate deigned to talk to me. He clarified the issue on the Bose speaker as only capable of one Bluetooth connection at a time.

As to the HD, that took more technical familiarity. No one among the sale's force could help. I needed to talk to a techie at the Genius Bar but I could not do so without an appointment so I kept the next slot available.

I had been eyeing another external HD for my burgeoning files anyway, so I went to Best Buy, a retailer of consumer electronics and entertainment software from where I bought one of my laptops in a branch in Honolulu. I presented my HD situation to their Geek Squad, a technical info desk. The "geek" was a young girl of South Indian-descent, later joined by a *haole* who looked ready to play jolly St. Nick.

Deciding to initiate the transaction on my own, I bought a Mac-formatted HD and asked them to move the data off my Windows-HD and reformat the latter so it is Mac friendly. "No problem," I was told. I waited out the transfer but the female geek did not look in a hurry, so I took a long lunch.

When I returned, the *haole* technician was looking at my stuff, and the Hindu girl told me that 1.4T of data transfer was not going to be quick. I returned the following day. The HDs waited for me but their icons did not appear on my screen, though I could locate them with my disk utility, but unable to open them. I asked the staff to reformat them again.

I went back to Apple, for old times' sake. I was prepared to buy an iPad Air and an iPhone S for China now that Apple is servicing the market. I engaged a sales person, Adam of Chinese descent, to help but he was oblivious to my questions. I inquired but he was trained to demo his iPhone so that the unit I asked about was brought out immediately for my look-see, an admirable but pressure-laden sales tactic. I already knew what I wanted. I already checked the Internet price; I just wanted him to tell me the store price so I can wiggle it into my budget. But he would not until he scanned the items in his iPhone, perhaps to demo the unit's capability. As an associate at a computer store outside D.C. in the '80s, I saw his customer service manners as less than accommodating. He failed to notice the quirks of his customer in his eagerness to sell.

The Geek Squad came through a day later. In retrospect, a genius cast a laser beam on a situation and Apple served me well in the past. A geek is familiar with tons of procedures ze can navigate through. In this particular event, the geek prevailed. I never got close to a genius. Nor did I purchase my iPad and iPhone. Score MINUS ONE for Calgary Apple's sales staff and its Genius Bar.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

I Santo Papa Francis

Si Santo Papa Francis chumoneg pinetsigen ayudu para i tautau ni ha tutuhongue` ginen i korason. Ilelegña na soluke mafattu sinsinyu na palabra ginen i korasonmu kanaha` tai bali fino`mu siha.

Ha soyu` todu katdinat yan o`bispo na u fan huyuñg ginen palasyon niha ya u fan hanau guatu gi tautau ni masesetbe para u li`e kabales haf` modun linala` niha. Ti siña este mali`e gi halom kuatdranten palasyon niha!

Hombre guiya mismu i Santo Papa otru lugat `nai sumaga giya Roma. Ha suhaye i palasyu ni mahatsa para maseha haye na santo papa pot para u siña mas hihot yan i tautau siha. Estague` na mañan papa i lumi`e sustansian koneksion yan tautau siha sumen presisu gi maseha haye na kabesan komunida piot guine.

Yangin taigue i sentimentun i tautau gi korasonmu, pues tai bali i offisiu ni un` okukupa pa`gu. Piot ya tai tiempu hau umekuñgog haf` sessu probleman tautau-mu siha gi señgsoñg.

Che`chu` Atrasau

Dispues de todu, sige pa`gu i bumota casino mañguentos pot inadahen este na industrian kontra kandet, hanom yan sisteman paip aplacha` (sewer) gi mas hihot na soñgsoñg siha.

Ni mas de menos este na hinassu yan mapegan toru gi tatten karetan guaka. Hita pa`gu para tana` maudai i toru en lugat de guiya u fan hala dispues de ma-onse. Estague` siha na finatsu mina` atrasasau kinalamten-ta guine. Pot este na diskuidu mas ma-estira tiempun mahatsan yan mababan este na industria guine.

Poresu na kada ratu hu mente na debi u guaha planu. Ginen fotmat na planu `nai siempre un` li`e haf`nesessidat i ma-intended na industria. Magpu` i nobena sa` siempre man-a`hala hit tali gi ge` fena. Dispues appenas lokue` empleau para mahatsan fasilidat casino yan operasion dispues de monhayan.

Estague` mina` mampos lastima i tiempu `nai machoguen hasupag sustansiau na asuntun linahyan taimanu i casino. Marianas ha` `nai hu li`e sessu ta atbansa hit tatte!

Che` chu` fan gualu`an

Maseha haye na lancheru, todu i tiempu ha planeneha hafa para u petsige deste managasgas hatdin, konsiderasion finattun agua de Abrit, haf` fahna na golai yan gulusina yan otru siha nesessidat gualu`. Gaige gi hilu` konsiderau na planu haf` para u chogue pa`gu na biahen mananum.

Deste simiya, abonu, hanom, amot pesti, hutnaleru, yan metkau todu mangaige guenau na planu. Siempre ha tutuhon gi mana` gasgas i lugat, aladu, ma-eñgleran odda`, tinanom simiya gi kahun estake matransplanta gi edda, marega, abunuye, yan otru siha cho`chu`.

Siempre u fofona i chadeg siha na fina` golai pot para u gai ganansia gi halom tres mesis. I otru u fanatatte mientras sige ha rinueba i lugat para u dobla mananum. Otru ayudu gi mantension familia i pinegsai deste manog, babue, ñgañga` yan chiba. Dispues guaha `nai ha dobla tumekin `sino tumalaya layeye pot mantension i tropa gi gima`.

Magahet na na`mase` i prohimu `nai tinetpe mattiempu gi katkuet sakudida. `An anaku` i tiempon fañomnagan mantostus tinanomña. Gigon sinaulag atlibes na klima man-matmos lokue` i tinanom siha. Debi u pogsu` gi tiempu puede mas anchu yan libianu benefisiosu biradan animuña.

Makat na offisiu lau hombre este mau`udai gi hilu` planu.

I chafleg yan inipos na machalapon gueku na kahan iya Marianas mamatmos gi halom chubaskun taya` planu ginen i timuneron hegsu` I Deni`. Mauleg na i publiku u pinadese diskuidun niha? Hagu solu siña umoppe este na kuestion.

Lastima i tiempu

Ti gaganduyu` poker lau hu huñgog na mauleg i natibu humugandu nu este na klasen huegu. Yangin todu este linistoña haf` na ti siña ta danche petmanente na satbasion problemata siha?

Pot fabot: Gi kada sakan na un` luñu` linala` publiku gi aplacha na sadog diskuidumu, garentiha na tres años tatte `un` fondu ha`anen niha. Dinanche este?

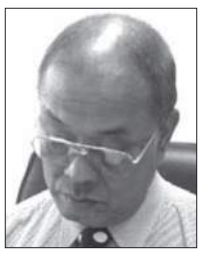
Lau sumasaunau hau umesalau "biba" sa` listu hau man-ayuda umatbansa linala` tautaumu siha. Malag manu` ayu na ansia? Kau mauleg infa` esklablun miserapble na ekonomia i publiku pa`gu? Haf` minapotña in` li`e na man-chatchogue hamyu ni dichu asuntun linahyan?

Gi halom 29 na man-malate` kau linala` miserapble ha mirese i publiku pa`gu? Kasse guaha sineda' miyu lagse` na eskusu ya hagas hu nañgga haf` `nau siha na eskusu. Debi in` esplika pronto diskuidun miyu. Taya` esta tiempu para gueku na dinage siha.

■■■

Ilegña i amiguhu Magoo, "Muñga nina` chatsaga ni masusesede sa` esta pa`gu ti madadanche na debi i dos kanai parehu kalamten gi dinanche na pinetsigen che`chu` linahyan siha". Kasse dinanche si Magoo!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Gaza's victims: civilians and peace

After more than two weeks of fighting between Hamas and Israel, there is no question which side has the upper hand. Thursday's strike on a U.N.-run school for Palestinian children increased the Palestinian death toll to more than 760. By that point, the death toll on the Israeli side stood at 35, including a Thai worker in Israel.

All but three of the Israeli deaths were soldiers. The U.N. estimates that 70 percent of the Palestinian dead were civilians. More than 120 were children—roughly 16 percent of the total. More than 140,000 Palestinians have been forced from their homes.

Israel has proven its military might, but to what end? Its actions have tarnished its reputation; generated complaints about excessive use of force and human rights abuses; and made any talk of peace seem ludicrous. The end game will be nothing but a prelude to yet another round of fighting, with more death on both sides.

A state cannot achieve security at the expense of its neighbors. Nor can anyone in the Middle East today achieve peace through military superiority or a posture of dominance over neighboring states. The pursuit of security through military means alone is self-defeating. It nearly always results in more violence.

What we need are effective, non-military instruments of security policy, such as the rebuilding of Gaza's economy. Cooperation, conflict prevention and economic investment can lead to security for all parties in the region, as they did in Europe after World War II. They would provide real security at far less cost, without the horrific loss of human lives we see today, especially the innocent children and women.

My father, the Late King Hussein I of Jordan, was right when he said that peace and stability are inextricably linked to social and economic growth. Even before the recent bombings, Israeli security controls had severely degraded economic and social conditions in the Gaza Strip, one of the most densely populated areas on earth.

About 38 percent of Gaza's 1.8 million residents live in poverty. About 80 percent depend on some level of food assistance to stave off hunger. Youth unemployment among young people, ages 15 to 24, stands at 40 percent.

There are not enough schools or enough housing.

The U.N. says there is a shortage of 70,000 housing units due to natural population growth, as well as the damage caused by Israel's ground offensive in December 2008 through January 2009. The recent attacks have made this dismal situation much worse. Large sections of Gaza are now without electricity or water.

There is little doubt that Israel's decisive military edge will weaken Hamas militarily, at least temporarily. It will also result in far more Palestinian dead and wounded than Israeli casualties.

But any victory for Israel in this conflict is a resounding defeat for peace. The endless bloody cycle we are seeing today in Gaza is not only claiming innocent lives, it is systematically destroying the hope for a peaceful settlement to one of the world's most intractable disputes. Rockets and bombs and will not bring about peace.

My father was also right when he said this: "Real victories are those that protect human life, not those that result from its destruction or emerge from its ashes."

It is time for the killing to stop.

By PRINCESS HAYA AL HUSSEIN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Princess Haya Al Hussein, the daughter of the late King Hussein I of Jordan, has been a U.N. messenger of peace since 2007. She is the spouse of Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai and Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Bias against women

I was checking on the Carmelita Guiao case I read about in the paper, written by her father on July 7, 2014, in the *Saipan Tribune.* I did a little checking and I think he is correct. Male judges in the CNMI, in every instance I could find, give lighter sentences to men than to women for the same offense. I checked one for Judge Wiseman and nine for Judge Inos, all sentencing men for violence against women, some of them for the second or third time and some still on probation for earlier sentences. Draw your own conclusions. Then read the Guiao case and the sentence that Judge Inos imposed on this woman accused of violence against a man.

Judge David Wiseman's case:

■ A man accused of beating up his wife and threatening to kill her with a machete has been sentenced to four months in prison. (http://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/man-gets-4-mos-for-beating-wife-resisting-arrest/)

Judge Perry Inos' cases:

■ "You are now a free man," Inos told the 48-year-old Flores. (http://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/judge-acquits-security-guard/)

■ A man accused of relentlessly harassing his former girlfriend and beating her up was only convicted of disturbing the peace and was slapped with a 30-day prison sentence. (http://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/domestic-violence-lands-man-in-prison-for-30-days/)

■ Martin allegedly kept pushing the victim until they reached the abandoned house where he allegedly raped her. (http://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/ex-convict-allegedly-rapes-former-girlfriend/).

■ Judge Perry B. Inos sentenced Babauta to five years in prison, all suspended except for 30 months, without the possibility of parole, with credit for the 138 days he has already served in jail. According to the plea agreement, Babauta had sexual contact with a 12-year-old girl (http://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/ex-house-bet-gets-30-month-sentence-for-sex-abuse/)

■ A man who was charged with beating up his wife, trying to stab her with a kitchen knife, and slapping her daughter pleaded guilty and was given a six-month prison term. (http://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/man-who-tried-to-stab-wife-gets-6-months-in-prison/)

■ Defendant says no more alcohol, 10 days in jail turn him to a family man. Judge Inos has imposed a 30-day jail term on a man who beat up his wife before their two minor children.

(http://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/man-gets-30-day-jail-term-for-beating-wife-before-2-children/)

■ Last October, Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos slapped a 58-day jail term on Giovanni Sablan for assaulting his former girlfriend in the parking lot of Aquarius Hotel in Chalan Kanoa. Inos sentenced the defendant to a total of one year and six months, all suspended except for 58 days, for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. Inos gave the 23-year-old defendant credit for the 58 days he already served in jail. (http://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/ex-cpa-firefighter-on-probation-arrested-again/)

■ Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos yesterday slapped a seven-day prison term against a man who punched his 17-year-old daughter for not studying and constantly cutting classes. (http://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/man-gets-7-day-sentence-for-punching-daughter/)

■ Inos on Monday sentenced Julio Litulumar Emangmai to three years in prison, all suspended except for 90 days, for assault with a dangerous weapon, with credit for time served. This mean the 25-year-old Emangmai will no longer serve further jail time. (http://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/man-gets-90-day-sentence-for-beating-up-his-girlfriend/)

■ And the Carmelita Guiao crimes for which she received 10 years in jail, not probation, on each, to run concurrent. Ten years for hitting him with a frying pan. They both might have benefited from anger management classes, which Judge Inos ordered several of his other defendants to get: *January 6, 2012: Preliminary police investigation states that Guiao repeatedly struck the victim with a hot frying pan. Tarkong smelled a strong odor of alcoholic beverages in both the victim and Guiao.* (http://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/woman-attacks-husband-with-hot-frying-pan-burns-shoe/)

I am sure there are mitigating circumstances but the pattern is for leaner sentences and more help for men beating up women than the other way around. You decide. Time served, anger management classes, and keep these two idiots apart. I just hope the kids are grownups.

Gary DuBrall
Chalan Piao, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. West winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. West winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. West winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. West winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°

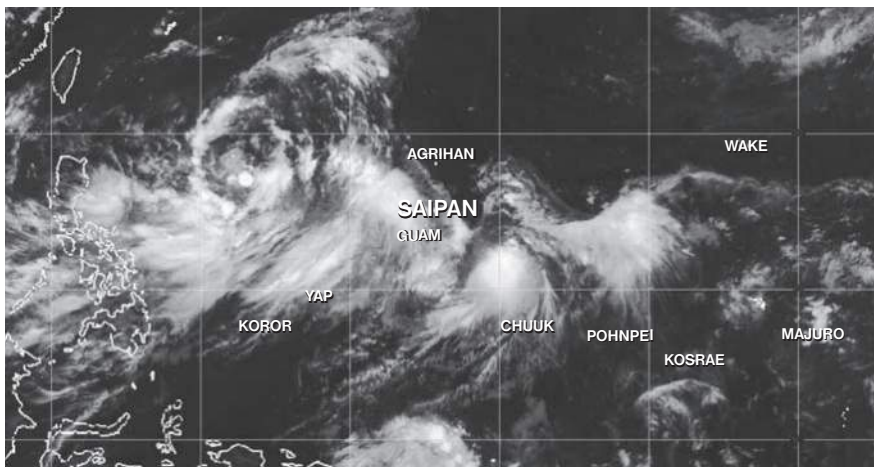
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼78
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼81
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼81
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61	▼52
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲95	▼73
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲86	▼79
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼76
London	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼60
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼68
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲61	▼53
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲81	▼63
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲93	▼74
Paris	Showers	▲74	▼61
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼71
Rome	Showers	▲82	▼67
Salem	Sunny	▲94	▼60
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼57
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼70
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼73
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼63

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JULY 28, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A tropical disturbance the subject of a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center is centered east-southeast of Guam near 12N150E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the center within 75 miles of 11N151E. For more information on this disturbance, see special weather statement issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WWMY80 PGUM. A monsoon trough extends southeastward from Luzon across 17N130E then through a circulation centered north of Koror near 17N134E and the tropical disturbance mentioned above to another weak circulation centered near Kosrae at 3N162E. It then turns east-northeastward to beyond 180 at 8N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen near the broad circulation over Yap between 9N and 19N from 130E to 141E. Similar conditions are also found near the trough over the southern Mariana Islands within 70 miles of a line from 19N140E to 15N144E to 9N148E. A surface trough reaches northeastward from the circulation north of Koror at 17N134E to end near Iwo To island at 15N140E. Isolated thunderstorms are evident near this feature within 55 miles of a line from 18N130E to 22N133E and also north of a line from 23N134E to 23N141E. An upper-level low is centered northwest of Enewetak atoll at 16N157E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present within 130 miles of a line from 11N158E to 16N160E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:20 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:21 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:23 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
10:56 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Wednesday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:33 AM	8:11 PM
Wednesday	8:20 AM	8:49 PM
Thursday	9:07 AM	9:28 PM
Friday	9:54 AM	10:06 PM
Saturday	10:43 AM	10:47 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 28, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU7076	4:15am	6:50am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:45pm	1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D2 8009	12:50pm	4:05pm	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 5, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU7075	9:00pm	3:15am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	7:25pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:55pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

NMC gets favorable audit opinion for 7th consecutive year

For the seventh consecutive year, the Northern Marianas College has received a favorable audit opinion—an unqualified opinion—on its financial statements for fiscal year 2013.

An unqualified opinion means that the financial statements present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the Northern Marianas College as of Sept. 30, 2013, and conform with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

According NMC chief financial officer Tracy Guerrero, the college's independently-prepared audit identified no material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, or material non-compliance with the college's financial statements.

She also added that no audit findings on NMC's financial statements were identified. The audit report did not raise any questioned costs either.

With regard to the internal controls over major programs, the audit firm reported one audit finding, which is the fewest number of findings the college has ever received. This audit finding centered on NMC's Student Academic Progress and Reinstatement procedures and the eligibility requirements pursuant to the Student Financial Assistance Programs Cluster.

According to Guerrero, the college has already taken corrective action to resolve this finding. The correction was completed on June 4, 2014.

"This year's financial audit demonstrates the college's commitment to being efficient and prudent with the resources that are entrusted to us," said NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart.

A copy of NMC's financial audit, prepared by J. Scott Magliari and Co., has been transmitted to the Office of the Public Auditor.

"We commend the hardworking staff at the Finance Department, as well as other employees at the college, for working diligently to ensure that our finances are well-managed," said Hart.

In previous years, the college noted that audit firm Deloitte and Touche representatives indicated that NMC is one of the most financially compliant and stable government entities in the CNMI and the region. ***(NMC)***

House panel hearing on proposed DLNR-Sea Touch submerged land lease draws support

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All testimonies that the House Committee on Natural Resources received Friday night on a proposed submerged land lease between the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and Sea Touch Saipan LLC were in support of the $1.125-million shark and stingray marine park project. However, the committee will still deliberate on the proposed submerged land lease of $12,000 a year before recommending to the full House of Representatives its approval or rejection.

The proposed submerged lands project area covers some 4,575 square meters by the Fiesta Resort & Spa beach in Garapan.

Saipan Sea Touch plans to build temporary holding pens for the sharks and stingrays, and a floating walkway on the shallow waters fronting the hotel.

If approved by the Legislature, the lease would be for five years. The lease may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years, with each renewal term of up to five years.

Among those who appeared on Capital Hill for the 5pm to 6pm public hearing on House Bill 18-198 were David Rosario of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan, tourism professional Ivan Quichocho of Tan Holdings, marine sports operator Manuel Alvarez, and Tan Holdings legal counsel Vince Seman. The committee also received written testimony from Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), a committee member, said they acknowledge the public support for the project but he would like a committee-level deliberation focusing on the proposed lease itself, not the marine tourism project as a whole.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), acting committee chairman, said the panel plans to have a separate meeting with the members of the Division of Coastal Resource Management board, including BECQ, DLNR, Department of Commerce, Historic Preservation Office, Department of Public Works, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Sea Touch director of special projects Troy Williams introduced the project and answered some questions from lawmakers through telecommunication, because Williams' flight to Saipan via Cape Air/United Airlines was cancelled Friday.

BECQ's Rosario read the testimony of the bureau's administrator, Frank R. Rabauliman, during the public hearing. He said Sea Touch submitted a major siting permit application on Nov. 20, 2013, to the DCRM board for review and approval, for a shark and stingray marine park within the lagoon fronting Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

The DCRM board, which consists of a handful of environmental and other regulatory agencies, approved the Sea Touch application on Feb. 11. The bureau also noted "overwhelming support" from the public and businesses during a Jan. 21 public hearing.

MVA's Tenorio, in his July 16 letter to the House Natural Resources Committee, applauded House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) for introducing HB 18-198 which, when approved, "will allow Sea Touch Saipan to offer a special attention and activity for both visitors and local residents to enjoy."

"The unique opportunity to interact and play with marine creatures will play an important role in the MVA's overall promotion of the Northern Marianas. In this regard, we support the intent of this legislation," Tenorio told the committee.

Those who testified in person on Friday night essentially echoed MVA's statement.

House committee members also took turns posing questions to DLNR Secretary Arnold Palacios at the public hearing. At one point, Rep. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan) posed a question to biologist John Gurley, who disclosed that he's working with Sea Touch. Gurley, in response to Benavente's question, said he doesn't believe there would be any adverse environmental impacts in the area.

The Legislature has exclusive right to approve, disapprove, or modify the provisions of any development lease or water-dependent use of submerged lands, and all leases are required to be approved by law.

On June 30, DLNR's Palacios submitted to the House and Senate for their review and approval the terms and conditions of DLNR's submerged lands lease agreement for Sea Touch. Palacios recommends approval of the proposed land lease deal. The speaker introduced HB 18-198, which seeks to approve the lease agreement.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Biologist John Gurley, left, answers a question from members of the House Natural Resources Committee Friday night on Capital Hill regarding a proposed submerged land lease agreement for a $1.125-million shark and stingray marine park project. Looking on are House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and Department of Lands and Natural Resources Arnold Palacios, right.

High surf warning until Thursday

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management issued a warning yesterday that monsoon winds will cause large waves and hazardous surf along south and west facing shores in the next few days.

A high surf advisory in now effect until 6pm Thursday. Hazardous surf of 7 to 10 feet is expected along south and west facing shores until Thursday. Surf could build even higher by Wednesday if sea conditions become worse.

The agency is advising the general public and inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, to avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. Avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches along all reefs as rip currents are life threatening. ***(PR)***

POI Aviation invites qualified US worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Airport Service (Passenger Service) Agent (13 Full-time / 2 Part-time)

High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience in passenger or customer service. Assists passengers by answering inquiries regarding flight information/booking/reservations, checking-in out-bound passengers and luggage and assisting them in boarding flights, assisting in-bound passengers through immigration and customs. Must be computer-literate with excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Chinese. Must be able to lift 70 pounds.

Airport Service (Cleaning) Agent (28 Full-time / 3 Part-time)

High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 2 years experience in aircraft exterior and interior cleaning. Performs interior cleaning of various aircraft to include cabins, lavatories and galleys. Must be knowledgeable in the use of different kinds of cleaning equipment, tools and materials.

Customer Service (Ramp/Cargo) Agent (9 Full-time / 4 Part-time)

High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 2 years experience in ramp cargo loading and unloading operations. Operates equipment for loading and off-loading baggage/cargo to and from the aircraft for both commercial and freight aircraft. Handles and accepts cargoes according to the IATA, FAA, TSA, local airport, airlines and company regulations. Prepares documents for out-going and transfer cargoes. Must be able to operate forklift and other cargo-handling equipment. Ability to learn how to operate specialized equipment for aircraft servicing and ramp operations. Must be able to lift 70 pounds.

Lead Aircraft Maintenance Technician (1)

Requires: AS Degree in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering with 4 years experience in airframe and power plant maintenance on both narrow and wide-body aircraft. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the manager, performing various repairs on aircraft airframe and power plants and other required services to ensure airworthiness. Must be skilled in use of specialized aircraft testing equipment and hold current U.S. FAA A&P License or an equivalent foreign license.

Interested applicants may send their applications to recruitment@poiaviation.com.
To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than August 4, 2014. Applications for employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the POI Aviation Building on International Terminal LP, Saipan International Airport. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

POI Aviation is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Century Tours, Inc.
Is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Operations Supervisor (1)
High School Diploma, GED, or equivalent. At least three (3) years work experience as a tour operations staff in a tour/travel agency, preferably with at least two (2) years of experience supervising a team of tour sales agents. Must be able to speak and write in Chinese (Mandarin) for China market.

Operations Assistant (1)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. At least two (2) years office experience in tour operation or sales or service related work. Must be computer-literate and able to speak and write in Chinese (Mandarin) for China market.

Operations Clerk (2)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. At least one (1) year office experience in travel or tour operation or sales or service based work environment. Must be computer-literate and able to speak and write in Chinese (Mandarin) for China market.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_ctr@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than August 1, 2014. Applications for Employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Tours is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons
with Disabilities are urged to apply.

NEW SPC ASSESSMENTS RELEASED

Condition of bigeye tuna in western, central Pacific worsening

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—The Secretariat of the Pacific Community released last week new assessments on the status of key regional tuna stocks—skipjack, yellowfin, and bigeye tuna—which show that skipjack and yellowfin remain in a reasonably healthy state, but bigeye, the mainstay of the tropical longline fishery, has now been reduced to less than 20 percent of its unfished stock size.

The assessments, along with over 40 scientific papers produced by SPC, are due to be presented at the 10th meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Scientific Committee, being held in Majuro, Marshall Islands, in early August.

Dr. John Hampton, the head of SPC's Oceanic Fisheries Program, which conducted the assessments, said: "The reduction of bigeye now to below 20 percent of unfished levels is significant, because this is the limit that the WCPFC has decided represents an unacceptable risk to the stock. The WCPFC should now take firm action to reduce catches of bigeye and allow the stock to rebuild. While bigeye tuna is only 6 percent of the total regional tuna catch, it represents about 12 percent of the value of the catch, which was about $6.2 billion overall in 2013. It is an important species for several Pacific Island countries that have longline fisheries in their waters."

SPC

SPC scientist Bruno Leroy tagging skipjack tuna. Data from SPC's tagging programs are used extensively in tuna stock assessments.

Dr. Shelton Harley, who coordinated the scientific team undertaking the assessments, noted: "These assessments were a huge analytical challenge incorporating over 60 years of fisheries and biological data for an area spanning from Japan to Hawaii in the north and Tasmania to French Polynesia in the south. We had 40 computers running night and day for three months to complete the work."

For the other species, skipjack and yellowfin tuna, the assessments were considerably brighter. Skipjack, which accounted for 68 percent of the total tuna catch of 2.6 million tons in 2013, is estimated to remain at around 50 percent of unexploited levels, which is a desirable situation for the stock and the purse-seine fishery and reflects the management targets that have been discussed by WCPFC. Yellowfin, which made up 21 percent of the tuna catch in 2013, has been reduced to about 38 percent of unexploited levels, still a reasonably comfortable situation for the stock.

Harley noted: "While skipjack and yellowfin populations are currently okay, catches are likely at their full potential. There are more and more large fishing boats coming into the fishery, and if that continues we'll see even these fairly healthy stocks fall to levels that may impact their biological health and the profitability of the fishery. Some urgent decisions are required on limits and their allocation." ***(SPC)***

Tourism to War in the Pacific NHP creates $14.7M in economic benefit

HAGATNA, Guam—A new National Park Service report shows that 266,268 visitors to War in the Pacific National Historical Park in 2013 spent nearly $14.7 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 174 jobs in the local area.

"War in the Pacific NHP is proud to welcome visitors from around the world," said Superintendent Jim Richardson. "We are delighted to share with them the stories of the Pacific Theater of World War II and the diverse, unique natural resources throughout the park. And in addition to War in the Pacific's contribution to the economy, American Memorial Park, an NPS affiliated area on Saipan, contributes significantly to that island's economy, even though it is not reflected in this study. National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy—returning $10 for every $1 invested in the National Park Service—and clearly it's a big factor in our local economy as well. We appreciate the partnership and support of our neighbors and are glad to be able to give back by helping to sustain local communities."

» Report shows visitor spending supports 174 jobs in local economy

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by U.S. Geological Survey economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas and Christopher Huber and Lynne Koontz for the National Park Service. The report shows $14.6 billion of direct spending by 273.6 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported more than 237,000 jobs nationally, with more than 197,000 jobs found in these gateway communities, and had a cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy of $26.5 billion.

According to the 2013 economic analysis, most visitor spending was for lodging (30.3 percent) followed by food and beverages (27.3 percent), gas and oil (12.1 percent), admissions and fees (10.3 percent) and souvenirs and other expenses (10 percent).

The largest jobs categories supported by visitor spending were restaurants and bars (50,000 jobs) and lodging (38,000 jobs).

To download the report visit http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/economics.cfm

The report includes information for visitor spending at individual parks and by state. To learn more about War in the Pacific National Historical Park visit www.nps.gov/wapa or to learn about American Memorial Park visitwww.nps.gov/amme.

To learn more about the national park on Saipan and how the National Park Service works with Northern Mariana Islands communities to help preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide outdoor recreation, go to www.nps.gov/mp. ***(NPS)***

CAMPUS LIFE

Hofschneider: 'Study your passion'

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Tinian High School 2012 alumna and class salutatorian Chloe Andre Hofschneider has two more years left at the University of California, Davis before entering the workforce.

Hofschneider is an incoming junior studying Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior with a double minor in Psychology and Music. The Tinian native plans to pursue a profession in the medical field and hopes to one day become a doctor in Family Medicine or Internal Medicine.

"I want to serve the local community in the CNMI, especially on my home island," she said. "I plan to go back and serve my local community as a primary care physician."

While enduring rigorous academic curriculum at one of the nation's top colleges, Hofschneider said her motivation during late nights and early mornings on campus is her family.

"My main inspiration comes from my mother, father, three younger brothers, my friends, and stories of the future aspirations of fellow peers and alumni," she added.

She explained that coming from a small island has shaped her college experience—by making her more appreciative of her family and enjoying the simple things in life.

"Living on Tinian has shaped me to be more independent, hardworking in whatever task I set myself to even in the face of failure, striving to be the best I can be, and having a strong faith in myself and God," she said. " It has made me more open and accepting to new experiences with a diverse group of people."

Hofschneider, who also works as an intern at the UC Davis Emergency Department, hopes students on island do not take high school classes for granted.

"Understanding the necessary fundamentals of subjects such as Chemistry and Pre-Calculus will help you in the long run. Join as many clubs or extracurricular activities as you can for the learning experience without letting it affect your schoolwork," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

She added that graduating seniors should also be aware that there is no shame requesting for help from school faculty and staff.

Hofschneider urges students to "study what you are passionate about and never forget where you are from."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chloe Andre Hofschneider has two more years left at the University of California, Davis before entering the workforce.

She recounted her college orientation as an incoming freshman as one of her defining moments entering the university.

"During my college orientation as a first year college student, I remember a line of advice from the dean of the College of Biological Sciences' speech that really stuck with me that I'd like to share. She said, 'When choosing and taking G.E. courses, use it to become the person you want to be in the next five years. If you want to be a person who knows how to draw, then take an art class.' The same concept applies to other classes as well. You may never know what you're interested until you've become part of it."

Chloe is the daughter of Julian U. Hofschneider and Margarita D. Hofschneider.

Free movie at the park to kick off Plastic Bag Challenge this Friday

First Friday Films is partnering with the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance to show the film *Bag It* on Friday, Aug. 1, at 6:30pm at American Memorial Park, kicking off MINA's Plastic Bag Challenge.

The movie *Bag It* asks "Is your life too plastic?" It follows the life of an average man when he decides to make a resolution to stop using plastic bags at the grocery store. Little does he know this simple descision will change his life completely. Realizing that over-consumption of plastic has started to catch up with us, he looks at what we can do to fix it.

Before the film, Becky Furey from MINA will talk about the Plastic Bag Challenge—an outreach campaign that aims to reduce the use of plastic bags through the promotion of more sustainable options, such as reusable shopping bags and boxes. Across the United States and the Pacific, many places are starting to phase out plastic bags in favor of alternatives, and MINA is leading that charge for the CNMI.

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance is an environmental conservation non-profit organization that works to sustain the natural environment and ensure the island way of life.

First Friday Films is a partnership between American Memorial Park, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and the Humanities Council with support from other organizations and individuals. This particular film is sponsored by MINA. As always, our film events are free and open to the public. This event will run approximately 90 minutes.

For more information about First Friday Films, email fffsaipan@gmail.com or check out www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com. ***(BECQ)***

Business

Incubator farms nurturing agriculture entrepreneurs

ITHACA, N.Y. (AP)—A physicist from Armenia, a juice-maker from Bermuda and a Burmese sushi chef are crafting new careers in agriculture under a program that applies the business incubator model to farming.

The Groundswell Center for Local Food and Farming is one of dozens of incubator farms springing up around the country to nurture the next generation of agricultural entrepreneurs. The projects help would-be farmers get started by providing a plot of land, shared equipment, mentoring on business planning and marketing, and the opportunity to build a track record of success that will help them qualify for startup loans when they're ready to launch their own farms.

"It's giving me an opportunity to implement business ideas that I hadn't had a chance to before," said Damon Brangman, 43, an immigrant from Bermuda who wants to grow his own vegetables for the mobile juice business he runs with his wife in Ithaca. "I'm looking to buy or lease land, but there's more risk and cost involved. This was more within my reach."

The 10-acre farm in Ithaca, in New York's Finger Lakes region 140 miles west of Albany, is now in its second growing season with Brangman and two other farmers tilling quarter-acre plots that they can use for three years. Surik Mehrabyan, 54, came to upstate New York with a contract for physics research at Cornell University, but after it ended, he wanted to return to the agrarian lifestyle he grew up with in Armenia.

AP

Surik Mehrabyan, a physicist from Armenia, spades soil to make a raised bed for growing potatoes on his quarter-acre plot at the Groundswell Center incubator farm in Ithaca, N.Y., on Wednesday, July 23, 2014.

"My goal is to understand what to grow to make a living," Mehrabyan said as he spaded stony soil to build a raised bed in his plot at Groundswell. "All the time, I'm doing different experiments and finding markets, planning. For me, it's most important to get established with buyers before I invest in land."

Ye Myint, 47, a native of Myanmar, is growing sushi cucumbers and greens such as gongura and water spinach, which are popular in Asian communities. "I have a deal with a Burmese grocery store in Syracuse to buy gongura," said Myint, who makes sushi for the Cornell University food service.

There are about 105 incubator farms in 38 states, many of them still in the planning stage or just a few years into operation, according to the National Incubator Farm Training Initiative at Tufts University in Massachusetts. The program, launched in 2012, advises new incubator farms and helps farmers connect with them.

More than half the farms serve immigrants and refugees, but others nurture a range of new farmers including young people, career changers and retirees.

Supervisor-employee boundaries must be honored

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.*

QUESTION: Two weeks ago, my husband "Barry" unexpectedly came home from work with a large flat-screen television. He explained that one of his employees gave it to him as repayment for a loan. I was shocked, because I had no idea that Barry was lending people money.

Since we have absolutely no need for another television, I called Barry's office and asked the employee if he had any plans to pay the money back. He became defensive and said this matter was between him and my husband. When I related this to Barry, he angrily replied that it was none of my business.

After I expressed the opinion that loaning money to employees is inappropriate, my husband said that he considers this guy a friend. Now Barry isn't speaking to me because he felt my phone call was embarrassing. What do you think about this?

ANSWER: Two wrongs may not make a right, but sometimes they cancel each other out. If you and your hubby can acknowledge that you are both guilty of bad decision-making, perhaps you will be able to break this stalemate.

You are absolutely correct that managers should never, under any circumstances, lend money to employees. If tragic events inspire a group collection or company fund drive, the manager can certainly contribute. But a personal loan is always out of bounds because it changes the nature of the relationship.

Your husband's fundamental misconception lies in viewing his mooching staff member as a friend. While managers should always strive to have friendly relationships with employees, supervisory responsibilities create a power differential that makes true friendship impossible.

At the same time, however, your call to Barry's office also represents a boundary violation. Although you have every right to question your husband's behavior, you do not have the right to interrogate his employees. Your concerns about this transaction should have been expressed only to Barry.

To restore household harmony, begin by apologizing for your inappropriate phone call, then suggest a mutual agreement whereby you and Barry will consult each other about future financial decisions. That simple marital courtesy should help to prevent a repeat performance.

Nation

Aid group: Second American infected with Ebola in Liberia

BOONE, N.C. (AP)—A second American aid worker has tested positive for the Ebola virus at the same hospital in Liberia where an American doctor became infected while helping to combat an outbreak of the deadly disease, a relief group official said Sunday.

Ken Isaacs, a vice president of Samaritan's Purse, told The Associated Press that Dr. Kent Brantly—the 33-year-old medical director for the group's Ebola care center on the outskirts of the Liberian capital of Monrovia—was stable and in very serious condition.

"We are hopeful and prayerful," Isaacs told AP by telephone from the group headquarters in Boone, North Carolina. He said the doctor quickly recognized the symptoms and sought speedy treatment.

Isaacs identified the second American, Nancy Writebol, as a worker with an allied aid group SIM, or Serving in Mission, which runs the hospital where Samaritan's Purse has an Ebola care center on the grounds. He said she was in stable and serious condition.

"She is showing full symptoms of the disease," Isaacs said. He added that Writebol had been working as a hygienist who decontaminated those entering and leaving the Ebola care area at the hospital.

He said both Americans have since been isolated and are under intensive treatment.

Isaacs, the Christian relief group's vice president of program and government relations, said the fact that health care workers have been infected underscores the severity of the West Africa outbreak that has killed hundreds in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Family of 5 shot dead in Maine, gun recovered

SACO, Maine (AP)—A family of five, including three children ranging in age from 4 to 12 years old, were found shot to death Sunday inside a southern Maine apartment, authorities said.

Investigators said a gun was found near one of the bodies and it appeared no one outside the family was responsible for the shootings.

State police Sgt. Chris Harriman said murder-suicide is one of the scenarios being investigated but that determination will be made by the state medical examiner's office.

Authorities did not release the names of the family but said the parents were in their 30s and the children were ages 4, 7 and 12.

Neighbors Heather and Dellas Nason stopped to place flowers on the ground outside the apartment building, which was surrounded by crime scene tape. Heather Nason said she used to babysit the children.

"I still don't want to believe it," she said. "I love those children like they were my own."

Their father was a maintenance worker for the complex who was friendly and outgoing, neighbors said.

"You'd walk by and he'd ask how your day was going. He was really nice," said neighbor Kristi Harkins. She said she had seen the eldest boy playing outside on Saturday.

Investigators said a family friend had contacted a worker at the apartment complex worried about the well-being of the family. The worker entered the apartment and discovered one body, then immediately called police.

Detectives said they believed the shootings happened around 11:30 p.m. Saturday.

Saco police found the bodies in bedrooms. Police described the firearm found in the apartment as a long gun. Shell casings were also recovered.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Bathroom cameras may have filmed hundreds

NEWARK, Del. (AP)—State officials say hundreds of women may have been secretly videotaped from cameras found hidden in bathrooms at the University of Delaware. On Friday, authorities announced the July 1 arrest of a University of Delaware graduate student after cameras were found in women's restrooms on campus. They said 38-year-old Javier Mendiola-Soto, a doctoral student from Mexico, has been charged with 21 counts of felony violation of privacy was being held in Wilmington. A lawyer for the suspect could not immediately be located. Police told The News Journal there may have been hundreds of victims.

3 days on, no arrests in hunt for carjack killers

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The hunt for two Philadelphia carjackers who rammed a stolen SUV into a family, killing three children, entered its third day Sunday as officials offered a $110,000 reward for information leading to their capture. Investigators said they are working hard to apprehend the suspects, who fled on foot after crashing the vehicle Friday at an intersection in North Philadelphia where Keisha Williams, 34, and her three children, aged 7 to 15, were selling fruit for a church fundraiser. Late Sunday, Homicide Capt. James Clark said two men were being interviewed by detectives concerning the crash, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported. Clark declined to identify the men.

Small plane crash on Fla. beach: 1 dead, 1 injured

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP)—A father was killed and his 9-year-old daughter critically injured Sunday while walking along a Florida beach when a small plane crash landed on the Gulf Coast only feet from the surf, authorities said. Wendy Rose, a spokeswoman for the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, said the pilot and his only passenger weren't hurt when the Piper aircraft lost power and touched down Sunday afternoon on a beach in Venice, Florida, as the two from Georgia were waling along the sand. "A man and one of his children who were walking on the beach were apparently injured by the plane," said Rose, adding the 36-year-old man from Georgia was later pronounced dead.

Man dies after lightning strikes 14 in California

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A 20-year-old man died Sunday after lightning struck 13 people at a popular Los Angeles beach and a golfer on Catalina Island during rare summer thunderstorms that swept through Southern California, authorities said. The man was taken from Venice Beach and pronounced dead at a hospital Sunday afternoon, Los Angeles County coroner's Lt. Larry Dietz said. His identity was not immediately released. Thirteen people, including a 15-year-old boy, were jolted by lightning on the beach, in the water and on the famed Venice Beach boardwalk. Nine were taken to hospitals, where one remained in critical condition, authorities said.

Asia

PH welcomes 100 millionth citizen

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials welcomed the birth Sunday of their country's 100 millionth citizen with a cake, hope and concerns about how their poor Southeast Asian nation can help ensure a decent life for its swelling population.

A baby girl named Chonalyn was born shortly after midnight at the government-run Jose Fabella hospital in Manila, pushing the country's estimated population to the milestone figure, said Juan Antonio Perez III, executive director of the Commission on Population.

Wrapped in a blanket and pink bonnet and cradled by her beaming mother, Chonalyn was showered with a cake, infant clothes and other gifts by health and population commission officials at a hospital ceremony.

"We are faced with the challenge of providing for all 100 million Filipinos," Perez said.

The United Nations Population Fund said the milestone offers both challenges and opportunities to the Philippines, which is the world's 12th most populous country and has one of Asia's fastest-growing populations.

"It is important to emphasize that population is not merely a matter of numbers, but of human rights and opportunities," said Klaus Beck, the UNPF's Philippines representative.

With 54 percent of its population under the age of 25, the Philippines needs to provide the young with education, job opportunities and skills, Beck said. Nearly half of the country's people live in cities as more Filipinos migrate from rural areas to look for better opportunities elsewhere, fostering problems such as trafficking in girls and women that have to be addressed, he said.

In the poorest areas, women bear more children than they desire because of a lack of access to reproductive health information and services, Beck said.

President Benigno Aquino III signed a law in 2012 that directs government health centers to provide free access to nearly all contraceptives to everyone, particularly the poor, but its enforcement was delayed amid strong opposition from the dominant Roman Catholic church.

In April, the Supreme Court declared that the law was constitutional and gave the government the OK to enforce it.

RAMADANE NDS
Filipino Muslims shield themselves from a sudden downpour as they gather at Manila's Rizal Park to pray in celebration of Eid al-Fitr marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan Monday, July 28, 2014, in Manila, Philippines. The Eid al-Fitr, one of the holiest religious practices, is celebrated with prayers and family reunions and other festivities among Muslims all over the world. AP

ASIAN BRIEFS

Girls killed, hurt in attack in Thailand's south

HAT YAI, Thailand (AP)—A 12-year-old girl was killed and seven people, including two other girls, were wounded in a roadside bomb attack near an army base in Thailand's insurgency-plagued south, police said Monday. Suspected insurgents detonated an improvised radio-controlled bomb near an army base in Pattani province's Sai Buri district, as a group of soldiers were finishing their guard duty at a mosque and returning to the base on Sunday night, police Col. Panya Karawanan said. He said the explosion killed the 12-year-old and wounded two soldiers and five civilians, including a 7-year-old girl and her 1-year-old sister.

Police in China remove church's cross

BEIJING (AP)—Hundreds of police took down a church's cross in eastern China early Monday amid a crackdown on church buildings in a coastal region where thousands of people are embracing Christianity. Evangelist Qu Linuo, who belongs to another church, said hundreds of police showed up Monday at the Longgang Huai En Church in the city of Wenzhou and used a crane to remove the cross from its steeple. Qu said he and about 200 others had flocked to the church a few hours earlier to protect the church but peacefully made way for the police. Qu said authorities told the church the cross violated building height limits.

Typhoon Matmo kills 13 people in China

BEIJING (AP)—A typhoon has killed 13 people in China and left thousands in need of basic living supplies, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said Sunday. Typhoon Matmo dumped heavy rain on Taiwan before making landfall in China on Wednesday and being downgraded to a tropical storm. It brought strong winds and heavy downpours to several provinces. Nine deaths were reported in eastern Jiangxi province and four in southern Guangdong province, while nearly 290,000 residents have been relocated and some 37,000 are in urgent need of basic living supplies, the ministry said. The storm also destroyed homes and crops and caused direct economic losses of 3.37 billion yuan ($547 million), it said.

Taliban attack Afghan police chief's home

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban insurgents attacked the home of a well-known provincial police chief in restive southern Afghanistan on Sunday, killing a civilian and a border policeman before being shot dead by police, officials said. The six gunmen, all of whom were wearing suicide vests, launched the attack from a school building near Gen. Abdul Razeq's house in the Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province, but were shot dead before they could enter the residence, provincial police spokesman Zia Durani said. "Gen. Abdul Razeq was in his house at the time of the attack," but was unharmed, Durani added. Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement sent to the media.

World

Gaza war rages despite truce pledges

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israel and Hamas launched new attacks Sunday in the raging Gaza war, despite going back and forth over proposals for a temporary halt to nearly three weeks of fighting ahead of a major Muslim holiday.

The failure to reach even a brief humanitarian lull in the fighting illustrated the difficulties in securing a more permanent truce as the sides remain far apart on their terms.

After initially rejecting an Israeli offer Saturday for a 24-hour truce, Hamas said Sunday that it had agreed to hold fire ahead of the Eid al-Fitr holiday marking the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. But as Israel's Cabinet met to discuss the offer and the ongoing war, rockets rained down on southern Israel and Israeli strikes could be heard in Gaza.

Each side blamed the other for scuttling the efforts.

Hamas said that "due to the lack of commitment" by Israel, it resumed its fire. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Hamas showed it could not be trusted after it violated other cease-fire efforts.

"Israel is not obliged and is not going to let a terrorist organization decide when it's convenient to fire at our cities, at our people, and when it's not," Netanyahu said in satellite interviews from Israel carried on U.S. network Sunday news programs.

In a phone call later Sunday, President Barack Obama told Netanyahu the United States is growing more concerned about the rising Palestinian death toll and the worsening humanitarian conditions in Gaza. The White House said Obama reiterated that Israel has a right to defend itself and condemned Hamas rocket attacks that have killed Israelis, but pushed for an immediate cease-fire.

International diplomats had hoped a temporary lull could be expanded into a more sustainable truce to end the bloodshed, and U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon urged the sides on Sunday to accept a 24-hour break in fighting.

The U.N. Security Council met in emergency session just after midnight Monday morning to call for "an immediate and unconditional humanitarian cease-fire." The statement agreed to by all 15 council members urges Israel and Hamas "to accept and fully implement the humanitarian cease-fire into the Eid period and beyond."

However, both sides were holding out for bigger gains in the Gaza war.

Fighting intensifies near MH17 disaster site

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian armed forces mounted a major onslaught against pro-Russian separatist fighters Sunday in an attempt to gain control over the area where a Malaysia Airlines plane was downed earlier this month.

The U.S. State Department, meanwhile, released satellite images that it says back up its claims that rockets have been fired from Russia into eastern Ukraine and heavy artillery for separatists has also crossed the border.

A four-page document released by the State Department seems to show blast marks from where rockets were launched and craters where they landed. Officials said the images, sourced from the U.S. Director of National Intelligence, show heavy weapons fired between July 21 and July 26—after the July 17 downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17.

Moscow has angrily denied allegations of Russia's involvement in eastern Ukraine. Russia's foreign ministry over the weekend accused the U.S. of conducting "an unrelenting campaign of slander against Russia, ever more relying on open lies."

Secretary of State John Kerry spoke by phone Sunday with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, urging him to stop the flow of heavy weapons and rocket and artillery fire from Russia into Ukraine, said a State Department official. Kerry did not accept Lavrov's denial that heavy weapons from Russia were contributing to the conflict, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to provide details of the call.

There was no immediate comment from Moscow.

Reports of the intensifying unrest in eastern Ukraine prompted a postponement of a trip to the site by a team of Dutch and Australian police officers who had planned to start searching for evidence and the remaining bodies.

In the Netherlands, Prime Minister Mark Rutte said his government has rejected the idea of deploying armed troops to secure the crash site because there is no way they could achieve "military superiority" in a region where heavily armed pro-Russian rebels are battling Ukrainian government forces.

"The option we looked at was a military option in which you could secure the area so you can work in a stable environment," Rutte said. But "that the option would be such a provocation to the separatists that it could destabilize the situation."

Ukraine's National Security Council said Sunday that government troops have encircled Horlivka, a key rebel stronghold, and that there had been fighting in other cities in the east. Horlivka lies around 20 miles (30 kilometers) north of the main rebel-held city of Donetsk.

FINAL DESTINATION AP
The wreck of the Costa Concordia cruise ship is towed by tugboats toward Genoa's harbor, Italy, Sunday, July 27, 2014. The shipwrecked Costa Concordia cruise liner has completed its final journey. Pulled by tugboats and nudged by brisk winds, the wreck was eased Sunday into Genoa's port —where it will be scrapped.

Focus

By KELVIN CHAN and JACK CHANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

In this July 1, 2014 photo, tens of thousands of residents gather to march in downtown streets during an annual pro-democracy protest in Hong Kong to push for greater democracy. Many in this prosperous city had already feared that Hong Kong's future as an open society as well as a semiautonomous part of China was in jeopardy in the face of perceived growing intervention from Beijing.

In Chinese shadow, Hong Kong fights for its future

HONG KONG (AP)— As skyscrapers around Hong Kong harbor erupted into a reverie of laser beams and giant digital displays during their synchronized nightly light show, one innocuous 28-story building near the water's edge had stayed dark for months, clad in bamboo scaffolding for a face-lift.

Then, in June, the renovated tower came to life, flashing giant Chinese characters that some in Hong Kong saw as a warning.

"People's Liberation Army," it said.

Many in this prosperous city had already feared that Hong Kong's future as an open society as well as a semiautonomous part of China was in jeopardy in the face of perceived growing intervention from Beijing. Tens of thousands of people had turned out days earlier for an annual vigil to commemorate victims of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, while an unprecedented policy "white paper" declaring Beijing's irrevocable control over the territory had generated furious debate about Hong Kong's future.

Now, after the Chinese military building had kept a low profile for years, its brief debut in the city's beloved "Symphony of Lights" felt like nothing less than a show of force 17 years after the British handed the territory back to Chinese control.

"It's a logo of red Chinese colonization," said Billy Chiu Hin-chung, one of four people arrested last year after storming the army building while waving Hong Kong's colonial British-era flag.

"If Hong Kong people don't obey the Communist Party," Chiu predicted, "the army will come and fight us."

From the sweltering streets of this legendary port city of 7.2 million people to its air-conditioned office towers, Hong Kongers are indeed picking sides in a looming battle over their city.

People here have long prided themselves as providing a stable, sophisticated alternative to Communist China that despite its small population enjoys the world's 36th-biggest economy and runs the globe's sixth-richest stock exchange.

But now, Hong Kongers say the soul of their society is coming under attack as they see the flood of cross-border Chinese shoppers (dubbed "locusts" for their voracious buying habits and supposed bad manners) and grow wary of the Communist Party's rising sway with top officials.

One significant fear is that Beijing is breaking promises to let voters elect their leaders for the first time starting in 2017. Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, who was hand-picked by a committee of mostly pro-Beijing elites, recently asked China's legislature for constitutional changes to allow the territory to pick its own leader. However, his report said "mainstream opinion" wanted the committee to again pick candidates, setting the stage for a confrontation with democracy groups.

Already, the pro-Beijing influence is threatening a disciplined civil service corps traditionally untainted by political corruption, says Anson Chan, a democracy activist who was Hong Kong's chief secretary and No. 2 official from 1993 to 2001.

"If the government gives the community the impression that it doesn't listen," she says, "then the community feels that the only way of making this government listen is to take to the streets."

In the eyes of Chan and others, Beijing's influence has also hit the city's media industry. Most newspapers no longer run stories critical of the Chinese government, and in February an outspoken former editor at the Ming Pao newspaper was attacked by cleaver-wielding men.

Hong Kong's journalists' association called the past 12 months "the darkest for press freedom for several decades," citing the attack and advertising boycotts. Last year, the French press watchdog group Reporters Without Borders ranked Hong Kong 61st in press freedom, down from No. 18 in 2002.

"For someone who is used to an open society, that is something really alarming and concerning," says Shirley Yam, the journalists' association's vice chairwoman. "Hong Kong is a major financial center, and the reason that Hong Kong has been able to become a major financial center is freedom of information and press freedom."

The most troubling blow came last month with the white paper, which argued that Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy, famously dubbed "one country, two systems," was entirely at Beijing's discretion. It added that "loving the country is the basic political requirement for Hong Kong's administrators," including its judges.

Even Hong Kong's lawyers, a reserved group who dress for court in wigs and black robes, hit the streets by the hundreds to protest the white paper.

"We are definitely at a crossroads," Chan says. "Hong Kong people are growing increasingly angry and frustrated, and I think something has to give."

But not everyone agrees.

"I think Beijing is doing a good job in China. And the Communist government in Beijing is doing all the right things about Hong Kong that it's supposed to be doing," said Robert Chow, spokesman for the group Silent Majority, which opposes a plan by pro-democracy protesters to paralyze the city's financial center.

"Hong Kong is the proverbial rabbit who thinks he's going to beat the tortoise forever, but they forget that's not the tortoise. It's a super tortoise that runs fast or faster," he said.

Hong Kong Justice Secretary Rimsky Yuen Kwok-keung said that Beijing wouldn't require judges to make any "political or other inappropriate" considerations while deciding cases. Pro-government Hong Kong legislators also say critics are overdramatizing the Chinese threat. Instead, they warn that protesters who plan to shut down the city center are the real danger.

In one sign of Beijing's sensitivities, the People's Liberation Army stopped flashing its name across its building after the test run in June unleashed online outcry.

"Democrats should not use fighting means to achieve their own purposes," says Christopher Cheung Wah-fung, a legislator and businessman who runs a stock brokerage firm.

"Keeping the dialogue," he says, "is better than confrontation."

Some, however, are already looking to use foreign passports and move away, evoking the scene before the 1997 handover when hundreds of thousands left in fear of Chinese rule.

"'One country, two systems' is collapsing," says Ray Kwan, a 23-year old engineering graduate from Hong Kong University who wants to emigrate to the United States. "You have to compete with 1.3 billion people, with all of China. So my way of helping myself is just to leave."

Yet amid the despair, thousands of people are taking action. As many as 800,000 Hong Kongers voted in an activist-sponsored online referendum last month on electoral reform, which Beijing called illegal. Massive protests filled the city days later in the biggest march in years held on the anniversary of the city's return to Chinese rule.

"I think I will stay in Hong Kong until the last minute," said Joshua Wong, a 17-year-old who has opposed attempts to introduce pro-Beijing education in schools. "But if we stay silent, the situation will only get worse."

On the street, Hong Kongers notice the everyday signs of China's expanding influence.

Housewife Chan Man-yin, who lives in the city's northern suburbs, said she's had a hard time finding milk power because mainlanders from across the border buy up all the stock, fearful of tainted formula in China.

Chan admitted that like many of her neighbors, she's watched Hong Kong change in ways she fears are irreversible.

"We're all scared," she said. "I'd be lying if I said I wasn't. I'm afraid for my free speech rights. My personal rights are very important to me."

For Roger Chen, who moved from the mainland a year ago for a job at a hedge fund, Hong Kongers are only feeling insecure in the face of China's booming economy, which has eclipsed the territory's importance as a commercial gateway to the mainland.

"Beijing has no intention to break their deal," Chen said at a Starbucks cafe as his pregnant wife nodded. "Hong Kong is more like a child of Beijing. It's a very cherished child of China."

Overdrive

Porsche, Hyundai rule car owner satisfaction survey

By CHARLES FLEMING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Porsche is the top brand for owner satisfaction, with Hyundai the top non-premium brand, per a new study by auto industry experts J.D. Power.

The German automaker was the highest-ranked nameplate, for the 10th consecutive year, in a survey of 86,000 new buyers who'd owned and driven their new vehicles for 90 days.

Scoring a high of 882 out of a possible 1,000 points by drivers who were asked to evaluate their cars in 77 different areas, in the survey of Automotive Performance, Execution and Layout, also known as APEAL.

Porsche's Cayenne was named top Midsize Premium SUV, while its Boxter took the Compact Premium Sporty Car category and its 911 the Midsize Premium Sporty Car.

Hyundai was named best non-premium brand overall. Its Accent won best Small Car honors.

Domestic brands were runners-up.

The top U.S. brand overall was Lincoln, running behind six European and Japanese nameplates.

Dodge's Challenger, Charger and Dart won in their category awards. Also winning in multiple segments were Audi, Ford, Mercedes-Benz, and Nissan.

Top ten winners overall, in order, were Porsche, Jaguar, Audi, Land Rover, BMW, Lexus, Mercedes-Benz, Lincoln, Cadillac, and Infiniti.

J.D. Power also conducts an annual Initial Quality Study survey, asking new owners to report problems experienced during their first 90 days of ownership. Hyundai was named top non-premium brand in that survey, too, and becomes the first brand in the history of the surveys to win in both the IQS and APEAL studies in the same year.

The ten brands scoring lowest of the 33 companies tracked were Ford, Nissan, Chrysler, Honda, Toyota, Scion, Fiat, Subaru, Jeep, and Mitsubishi.

Genesis finds its groove

By TERRY BOX
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

NUTS & BOLTS

2015 Hyundai Genesis 5.0

- Type of vehicle: Five-passenger, full-size, rear-wheel-drive sedan
- Price as tested: $55,700
- Fuel economy: 15 miles per gallon city, 23 highway
- Weight: Estimated 4,300 pounds
- Engine: Five-liter V-8 with 420 horsepower and 383 pound-feet of torque
- Transmission: Eight-speed automatic
- Performance: 0 to 60 mph in 5.2 seconds

Sources: Hyundai Motor America; Car and Driver

MCT

Hyundai's all-new Genesis luxury sedan isn't afraid to build on strong fundamentals with a more refreshing and bold look from every angle.

Although the 2015 Genesis sedan appears to be as tame as ever—it's about the only member of the Hyundai family that doesn't dress to excess—this car has some fire in its feet.

You won't find any badges on its smooth fenders, but Hyundai sought some chassis-tuning help for the new Genesis from legendary Lotus.

And it works pretty well, giving the more sophisticated Genesis some decent dance moves.

I just wonder why the car doesn't shout a bit louder about it.

Fortunately, I had the Genesis 5.0, equipped with the optional 420-horsepower V-8 and a lofty window sticker price of $55,000.

Just last year, I would have struggled to see much value in a $50,000 Hyundai. Cars like the Genesis and Equus just didn't offer the sort of refined handling and ride that buyers expect in expensive cars.

That may not be true anymore.

The first thing I noticed about the silver Genesis I had recently was that it looked larger.

But the truth is, the 4,300-pound rear-wheel-drive sedan sported about the same dimensions as the old car with the exception of a 3-inch-longer wheelbase.

With the front and rear wheels set farther apart, though, the Genesis somehow seemed a tad bit sleeker and more sure-footed.

Up front, a blunt five-bar grille faced into the wind almost upright, like a BMW or Audi. In keeping with prevailing style now, large, semi-dramatic headlamps swept around into long front fenders.

Fitting for this segment, the Genesis wore a long, slightly raised hood that flowed into a nicely raked-back windshield.

A conservative character line passing through the handles of the car's huge doors saved the sides from looking too slabbish.

Moreover, short overhangs front and rear helped the big sedan look mildly athletic—as did 245-40 tires up front and 275-35s on the rear wrapped around 19-inch turbine-style wheels.

It looked fine. I guess I just wanted to see a couple of crazed Hyundai lines running wild on the sides or the hood.

For some reason, the great 5-liter V-8 in the car I had was down 9 horsepower from last year, dropping slightly to 420.

You won't notice it.

For a company focused mostly on fuel-sipping four-cylinder engines, Hyundai bolts together a pretty sweet V-8.

It feels as smooth and refined as the Germans' V-8s. And at $55,000, the Genesis 5.0 costs less than many 5-series BMWs with a turbo-six and about the same as a well-equipped Lexus GS 350 with a V-6.

(I presume, incidentally, that Ford doesn't have some sort of trademark protection for "5.0," which it has long used to identify V-8 models of the Mustang.)

The engine jumps to life with even minor throttle inputs, its 383 pound-feet of torque growing rapidly from idle.

In fact, the engine seemed so responsive and flexible that I was a little surprised at Car and Driver's estimate of a 0-to-60 run in "only" 5.2 seconds.

The car felt faster with the throttle on the floor and the eight-speed automatic clicking off positive shifts.

As you might expect in a 2-ton car with a sizable V-8, fuel economy doesn't rate front page headlines: 15 miles per gallon in town and 23 on the highway.

What has changed, though, is the unflappable way the Genesis contends with life's straights and curves.

In "sport" mode, the big sedan just felt more confident, rolling along on smooth surfaces with the sort of firm, well-damped ride that suggested lots of fine-tuning.

Though the Genesis never seemed tossable, it did turn into sharp curves with fair enthusiasm and decent precision.

The car leaned a little in hard corners, but it was pretty minimal. Hitting the brakes hard in mid-curve to avoid a loopy street citizen who had suddenly stumbled off the sidewalk didn't upset it much.

Shockingly for a Hyundai, the Genesis' steering qualified for a considerable role in the car's much-improved handling.

Still a little thick at parking-lot speeds, the steering began to quicken and feel more linear at 30 mph, and by 70 or 80, it seemed pretty natural.

While I am still reluctant to think of the Genesis as a true luxury sedan, I have to admit the black interior in mine looked pretty upscale.

Slightly pliable leather-like material on the gently sculpted dashboard felt rich and featured stitching on its edges.

A large 9.2-inch touch screen was integrated smoothly into the dash—visible without being obtrusive.

Graceful climate and audio controls were laid out horizontally beneath the screen, European-style.

And get this, Germans: The stereo could be tuned with a real knob.

Meanwhile, flat-toned dark wood and a thin band of aluminum provided subtle trim on the dash and door tops.

Lightly pleated black leather seats with perforated centers featured gray piping on their edges that matched a gray headliner.

As you might expect given the size of the Genesis, leg- and head-room in back were plentiful.

So were the false warnings emitted by the car's various safety systems, which vibrated the steering wheels and sounded a warning if any vehicle was within 25 feet of us.

That was great fun in the fast-moving early-morning traffic on Central Expressway.

Actually, I didn't take many points away for it. With a 100,000-mile powertrain warranty, the Genesis is still infused with solid Hyundai genes.

But it moves now with most of the grace of a 5-series BMW or an E-class Mercedes-Benz—and that's a lot more significant than matching socks.

Life & Style

'Avengers' unleash 'Ultron' footage at Comic-Con

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Several members of "The Avengers" descended on Comic-Con on Saturday to debut the first footage from the upcoming superhero sequel.

Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Chris Hemsworth, Jeremy Renner and Robert Downey Jr. were on hand with other cast members from "The Avengers: Age of Ultron," including Samuel L. Jackson and Cobie Smulders.

"It just keeps getting better," Downey told the boisterous crowd of 6,500 assembled in the San Diego Convention Center. "I'm so excited we're all here."

The footage kicked off with the Marvel superhero team comically attempting to pick up Thor's mighty hammer off a coffee table.

"If I lift it, do I get to rule Asgard?" Tony Stark wondered while trying to wield Thor's hammer—both with and without one of his Iron Man gauntlets.

The teaser quickly launched into a barrage of action-packed imagery, including Hulk battling a giant robot resembling Iron Man and Thor grabbing Stark by the throat. The footage ended with a bleak scene of all the Avengers fallen with a haunting close up of Captain America's shield split down the middle.

AP

From left, actors Jeremy Renner, Mark Ruffalo, Chris Hemsworth, Cobie Smulders, Samuel L. Jackson, and Chris Evans stand during the Marvel panel at Comic-Con International on Saturday, July 26, 2014, in San Diego.

Jackson, who most recently starred in "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" with Evans, took a moment during the celebration to appreciate the fans.

"It makes me feel like going out and making movies for the rest of you," he said of coming to Comic-Con. "We make movies because we want to entertain you guys, and I make movies because I want to see myself in them."

"Avengers" director Joss Whedon wasn't present at Saturday's unveiling because he recently underwent knee surgery, nor was pregnant Black Widow actress Scarlett Johansson, who sent along a video message.

The original "Avengers" cast was joined on stage inside Hall H by newcomers Elizabeth Olsen, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Paul Bettany and James Spader, who personifies the villainous mechanical force Ultron in the sequel.

"I play an 8-foot robot in this movie," Spader joked. "I've always played humans up until this point."

In the trailer, Ultron takes a few different forms, from a wobbly `bot to slick metallic general. At one point, he tells the Avengers that he has no strings.

"Joss really gets these big, big, big ideas," said Ruffalo backstage after the panel "There is a discussion that's coming up about artificial intelligence and the ethics of artificial intelligence I think that's dealt with in the movie. We're kind of on the threshold of that—the movie `Her'—all of this technology is just about ready to hit the world. But he's also talking about our ability to destroy the world. And it's a real thing. We're there."

The presentation ended with a brief appearance by Josh Brolin, who voices the alien baddie Thanos in both "Age of Ultron," which is set for release May 1, 2015, as well as "Guardians of the Galaxy," the cosmic Marvel romp that comes out Friday. Brolin came on stage wearing a foam Infinity Gauntlet, the powerful artifact depicted in Marvel lore.

'Lucy' tops 'Hercules' with $44M at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Luc Besson's "Lucy" proved mind can overpower muscle, topping a remake of "Hercules" by director Brett Ratner at the box office on the weekend.

The Universal Pictures-released movie starring Scarlett Johansson as an accidental psychokinetic took in $44 million in North American movie theaters over the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"Hercules," starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and produced by Paramount Pictures and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, brought down an estimated $29 million.

Universal's president of domestic distribution, Nikki Rocco, said audiences were attracted to the original story about the main character gaining superhuman powers by using more and more of her brain.

People also wanted to see Johansson in an action role, something she's done more frequently in movies like "The Island" (2005), "Iron Man 2" (2010), "The Avengers" (2012) and "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" (2014).

"The main reasons for coming to see the film were the story, and then Scarlett," Rocco said. "She's very diversified in what she does. Luc brought out the best of her in this movie."

"Lucy," rated R, opens internationally next week.

Meanwhile, Johnson's draw with men, women and children helped PG-13-rated "Hercules" power into the No. 2 spot. In addition to its domestic haul, the film brought in $28.7 million from Russia, Australia, Britain, Malaysia and other countries in Asia.

AP

This image released by Universal Pictures shows Scarlett Johansson in a scene from "Lucy."

Megan Colligan, Paramount's head of domestic marketing and distribution, said Johnson once again proved his appeal as a global action star who fights bad guys with a "a wink and a smile."

"He can be very serious and menacing and imposing, and he has this ability to melt it all away, which is why women show up for a movie like this," Colligan said. "He has a lot of appeal for kids."

Johnson himself drove over half of the buzz on social media platforms like Twitter, said Benjamin Carlson, president of tracking firm Fizziology.

"They weren't talking about any of the co-stars or Brett Ratner, the director," Carlson said. "It was all about `The Rock' with this film."

Despite the two films' solid performances, the summer box office is still down by around one-fifth compared to last year, according to Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst with Rentrak.

That's partly because one would-be huge performer, "Fast & Furious 7" was postponed from its July 11 release due to the death of actor Paul Walker, he said. This summer also lacked some other blockbuster sequels like last year's "Despicable Me 2."

That puts a lot of pressure on "Guardians of the Galaxy," a Marvel superhero film being released in the U.S. next week, to outperform, he said.

Even though it features lesser-known characters, including Chris Pratt as Peter Quill and Zoe Saldana as Gamora, it could still break out, Dergarabedian said.

"Any time you have a Marvel movie in the summer, it's still a factor," he said.

Another film that opened in wide release over the weekend was the Rob Reiner-directed romantic comedy "And So It Goes," starring Michael Douglas and Diane Keaton, which collected an estimated $4.6 million, according to distributor Clarius Entertainment.

"Boyhood," a Richard Linklater film that tracks the life of a boy from age 5 to 18, gained traction in its third week of release by distributor IFC Films with $1.7 million from just 107 locations.

1. **"Lucy," $44 million.**
2. **"Hercules," $29 million** *($28.7 million).*
3. **"Dawn of the Planet of the Apes," $16.4 million** *($54.4 million).*
4. **"Purge: Anarchy," $9.9 million.**
5. **"Planes: Fire & Rescue," $9.3 million.**
6. **"Sex Tape," $6 million.**
7. **"Transformers: Age of Extinction,"$4.6 million** *($37.5 million).*
8. **"And So It Goes," $4.6 million.**
9. **"Tammy," $3.4 million.**
10. **"A Most Wanted Man," $2.7 million.**

Fist bumps less germy than handshakes, study says

NEW YORK (AP)—When it comes to preventing the spread of germs, maybe the president is on to something with his fondness for fist bumps.

The familiar knocking of knuckles spreads only one-twentieth the amount of bacteria that a handshake does, researchers report. That's better than a high-five, which still passes along less than half the amount as a handshake.

So fist bumps—popularized by Barack Obama and others—seem to be the wisest greeting, especially during cold and flu season, said researcher David Whitworth of Aberystwyth University in Wales.

The importance of hand hygiene is nothing new in medicine. But the researchers realized that while a lot of research focused on hands getting germy from touching doorknobs and other surfaces, only a few studies had looked at handshakes.

"And there are alternatives to handshakes. You see them on telly all the time—the fist bump and high-five and all that," Whitworth said.

He and a student, Sara Mela, shook hands, fist-bumped and high-fived each other dozens of times for the research. One wore a glove covered in bacteria, while the other had a clean sterilized glove. After each greeting, they measured how much bacteria had been transferred.

Their results were published online Monday in the American Journal of Infection Control.

What makes the fist bump more sanitary? Mostly, it's the smaller amount of surface area in contact between the two hands, an analysis suggests. The researchers did practice runs with paint to measure how much surface area each form of greeting involved.

"It's a novel study," though the results are not surprising, said Mary Lou Manning, president-elect of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology. Her organization publishes the journal.

She said she hasn't seen much fist-bumping or high-fiving in hospitals. Handshakes are more common- but they must be followed by good hand-washing, she added.

Whitworth said he hopes the norm changes. "In a hospital, you really don't want people to shake hands. It's an unnecessary risk," he said.

Kevin Bacon brings his 'Six Degrees' to Comic-Con

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Kevin Bacon's "Six Degrees" world got even bigger Sunday at Comic-Con.

During a Sunday panel for his Fox show "The Following," a fan brought up the pop culture game known as "Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon," whose premise is anyone in Hollywood can be linked to the actor. She wondered if by talking to him she could then be a part of his universe.

Bacon said that technically you need to be in a movie with him to be connected in the "Six Degrees" world.

The actor then stood up and took a video of the crowd in the San Diego Convention Center's 6,500-seat Hall H.

He also got laughs when a young girl told him she loved

AP

Kevin Bacon attends "The Following" special video presentation and Q&A on Day 4 of Comic-Con International on Sunday, July 27, 2014, in San Diego.

him in the 2011 movie "Crazy Stupid Love."

"Thank you for loving me for such a long time, I guarantee you that I have socks that are older than you, but time is relative," Bacon said.

In "The Following," Bacon plays an FBI agent who hunts down killers. He spent the first two seasons tracking a psychotic murderer, played by James Purefoy, who manipulated others to follow his lead.

Show creator Kevin Williamson said at the panel that he was looking at season 3 as a reset.

To do that, the show needed "a bigger, badder, more complicated villain," show runner Jennifer Johnson teased. "It will take a few episodes before you start to understand what that means. We're going to throw the title of the show on its head."

The audience also got to see an alternate ending of the season 2 finale, where Purefoy's character is shot. In the version that aired, he was arrested.

'Sons of Anarchy' book announced at Comic-Con

SAN DIEGO (AP)—"Sons of Anarchy" is revving up for its final season but the outlaw motorcycle club will live on in books.

Series creator Kurt Sutter revealed the cover art to "Sons of Anarchy: Bratva" (Titan Books Ltd.) Sunday at Comic-Con.

The first of a series about the "Sons" world, "Bratva" is set in the show's fourth season. It follows Jax (Charlie Hunnam), Opie (Ryan Hurst) and Chibs, played by Tommy Flanagan.

Sutter also revisited the topic of a possible prequel to the series. He said serious "talks are ongoing."

"I don't know if it will be a full-on series or a mini-series," he said.

One thing he's sure of is "there'll be no spinoffs" because he believes those only work for procedurals.

Fans also got to see footage from the season 7 premiere, which airs Sept. 9 at 10 p.m. EDT on FX.

Hunnam was not at the panel session but pre-taped a video message for the audience.

Charles Russell art fetches millions at auction

RENO, Nev. (AP)—A total of 30 Charles M. Russell works fetched millions of dollars at auction in Reno, with one painting symbolizing the railroad's effect on American Indians drawing $1.9 million and another depicting a Native American chief selling for $1.1 million.

Other top prices at the annual Coeur d'Alene Art Auction on Saturday included $1.7 million for a Frederic Remington painting featuring a group of Indians and $1.5 million for a Thomas Moran painting depicting an Arizona gulch.

Russell artwork is highly sought after, auction organizer Mike Overby said, and commanded from about $25,000 for small sketches to the $1.9 million for his 1924 water color "Trail of the Iron Horse."

The painting shows a group of Indians on horseback looking down at railroad tracks with the sun setting on the open plains in the background.

"It's a very iconic image, absolutely one of his best," Overby said. "There's so much symbolism in that painting. I think that's what really grabs people's heart strings. Russell is still considered the absolute blue-chip artist of our genre."

Russell's romantic 1897 "Dakota Chief," which sold for $1.1 million, depicts a young American Indian man on horseback who is wearing a long-tailed feathered headdress and carrying a lance. While Russell was known as "the cowboy artist" in his early days, he actually painted more Indian subjects, historians say.

Remington's 1907 "The Story of Where the Sun Goes," which fetched $1.7 million, depicts several young Indians listening to an elder while sitting in a grove of trees.

"His large oils are extremely rare and hardly ever come to market, and when they do there's always interest in them," Overby said. "It wasn't a high-action painting. This was a much more serene and reflective piece."

The most spirited bidding of the day involved James Fraser's sculpture "End of the Trail,"

AP

This image provided by the The Coeur d' Alene Art Auction showing a Frederic Remington 1907 painting entitled, "The Story of Where the Sun Goes" drew $1.7 million at the annual Coeur d'Alene Art Auction in Reno, Nevada, on Saturday July 27, 2014.

which depicts an American Indian warrior slumped over on his horse. Competition between two bidders drove its price up to $921,000, roughly twice the estimated price.

The Golden Rooster that spent a half century at John Ascuaga's Nugget hotel-casino in nearby Sparks sold for $234,000. The 14-pound sculpture made of 18-karat gold was unveiled at the Nugget in 1958.

More than 650 registered bidders took part in what was billed as the world's largest Western art sale. About 320 works were sold for a total of some $30 million, nearly the same as last year's $30.5 million.

Driver hits, seriously injures woman during Zombie Walk

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A driver struck and seriously injured a woman while fleeing from angry members of the annual Zombie Walk held during Comic-Con, police said.

The 48-year-old driver and his family, who are all deaf, had waited for several minutes at a downtown intersection Saturday as a large crowd taking part in the walk, including some in zombie makeup, went by at around 5:30 p.m., Officer David Stafford said.

However, when small children in the car became frightened of the crowd, the driver rolled slowly forward to get through, Stafford said.

Some crowd members became angry, surrounded the car, pounded on it, climbed on it and smashed the windshield, he said.

The driver then sped up to flee and sideswiped a 64-year-old woman, who fell under the car.

"Her arm was badly scraped. It's going to need surgery," he said.

Some witnesses chased the car for several blocks until the driver spotted a police officer and stopped.

The driver was not arrested but the investigation continued, Stafford said.

A witness, Sean Foley, said that in his opinion the driver was at fault.

Son's clumsiness may have a physical cause

DEAR ABBY: In short, my son is a klutz—to the point that it affects his self-confidence. He's different from everyone else in the family.

Is being a klutz genetic? Is it permanent? He's not doing well academically, either. How can I help him?

PARENT WHO CARES

DEAR PARENT: One way to help your son would be to stop other family members from making fun of him and labeling him as a klutz. When people laugh and ridicule others, it makes them only more self-conscious and more clumsy.

Another way to help would be to have him examined by an ophthalmologist and a neurologist. His problem may be poor depth perception or a neurological or balance issue. And while you're at it, consider having him evaluated for a learning disability, which may be the cause of his academic difficulties.

DEAR ABBY: I have a pet peeve. I hate it when people ask to "try my meal" or to have a taste, especially when I haven't had one myself. When I say no, my boyfriend calls me selfish. If we're with friends, I feel obligated to say yes to avoid appearing rude.

I seldom trade bites with my boyfriend because I don't eat meat and he usually orders something I don't want. Some nights we cook our own separate meals, and he still asks to try mine (even though he's a better cook than I am).

Abby, how can I say no without looking or feeling selfish and rude? I just want to enjoy my entire meal without hearing, "Can I have a bite?"

PET PEEVE IN PORTLAND

DEAR PET PEEVE: Many people regard sharing food to be an act of intimacy. Because it makes you uncomfortable, all you have to do is say, "I'd prefer not to." If these folks are friends, they must know how you feel about this by now. And as for your boyfriend, I can't help but wonder why he would persist in doing something that he knows annoys you unless he's doing it to tease you.

DEAR ABBY: Are night owls born or raised to stay up late? Can a night owl successfully become a morning lark?

TIRED NIGHT OWL IN OTTAWA

DEAR TIRED NIGHT OWL: Night owls are usually born that way, but the pattern can be changed. If it creates problems for you, you may have a condition called "delayed sleep phase disorder." The most effective way to find out if this is your problem would be to consult a sleep (disorder) specialist. Therapies are available, and a specialist can help you determine which one would be the best for you.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

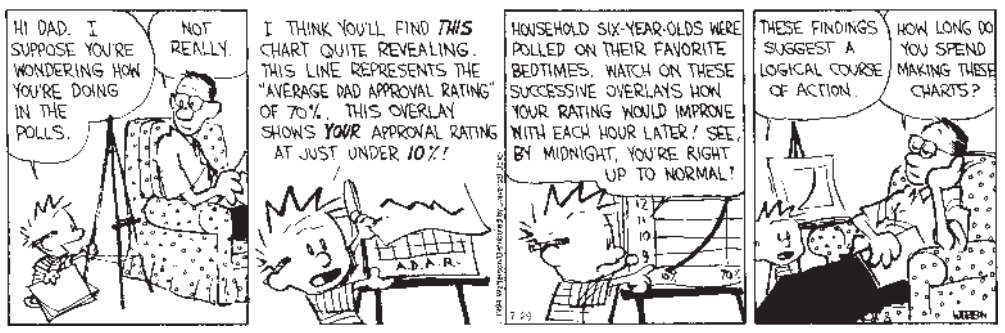
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

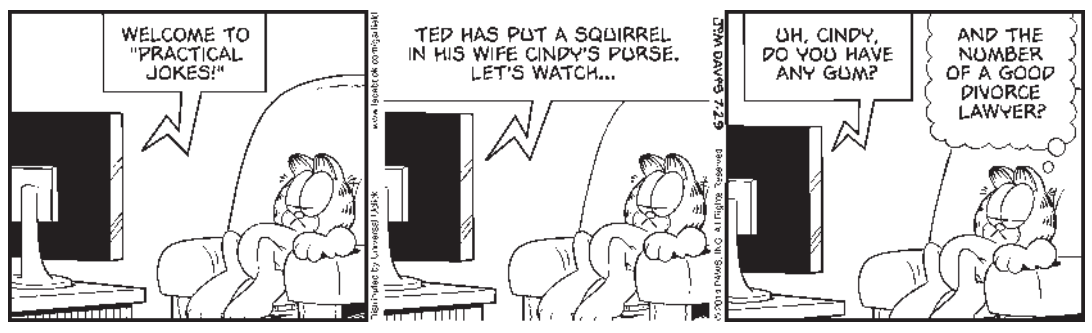
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HI DAD. I SUPPOSE YOU'RE WONDERING HOW YOU'RE DOING IN THE POLLS.
NOT REALLY.
I THINK YOU'LL FIND THIS CHART QUITE REVEALING. THIS LINE REPRESENTS THE "AVERAGE DAD APPROVAL RATING" OF 70%. THIS OVERLAY SHOWS YOUR APPROVAL RATING AT JUST UNDER 10%!
A.D.A.R.
HOUSEHOLD SIX-YEAR-OLDS WERE POLLED ON THEIR FAVORITE BEDTIMES. WATCH ON THESE SUCCESSIVE OVERLAYS HOW YOUR RATING WOULD IMPROVE WITH EACH HOUR LATER! SEE, BY MIDNIGHT, YOU'RE RIGHT UP TO NORMAL!
THESE FINDINGS SUGGEST A LOGICAL COURSE OF ACTION.
HOW LONG DO YOU SPEND MAKING THESE CHARTS?

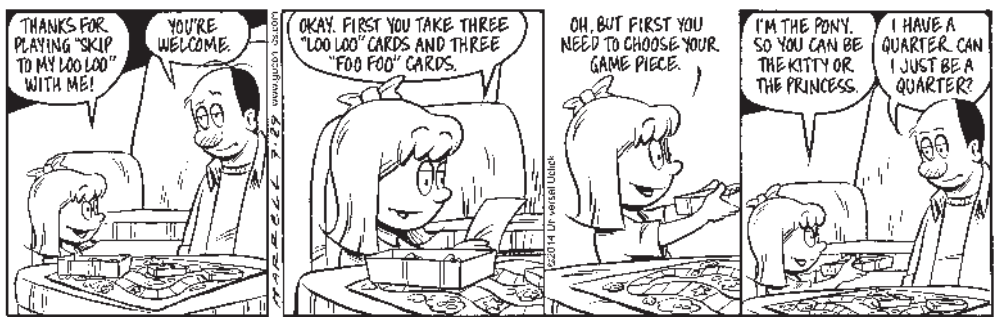
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


WELCOME TO "PRACTICAL JOKES!"
TED HAS PUT A SQUIRREL IN HIS WIFE CINDY'S PURSE. LET'S WATCH...
UH, CINDY, DO YOU HAVE ANY GUM?
AND THE NUMBER OF A GOOD DIVORCE LAWYER?

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THANKS FOR PLAYING "SKIP TO MY LOO LOO" WITH ME!
YOU'RE WELCOME.
OKAY. FIRST YOU TAKE THREE "LOO LOO" CARDS AND THREE "FOO FOO" CARDS.
OH, BUT FIRST YOU NEED TO CHOOSE YOUR GAME PIECE.
I'M THE PONY. SO YOU CAN BE THE KITTY OR THE PRINCESS.
I HAVE A QUARTER. CAN I JUST BE A QUARTER?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

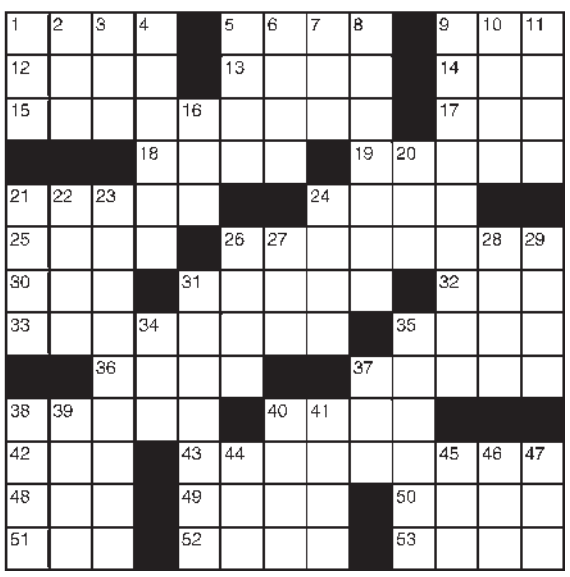
ACROSS
1 Venus de Milo's lack
5 Calendar abbr.
9 Altar affirmative
12 Swag
13 Western state
14 60 sec.
15 Without delay
17 PC alternative
18 Decays
19 Mistreatment
21 Tibia sites
24 Dazzle
25 Limping
26 Supplying the food
30 Intent
31 Grinding tooth
32 Red wine choice, for short
33 Breadwinner
35 Singer Horne
36 React to yeast
37 Bathroom fixture
38 Microsoft cofounder
40 Mop
42 "... man — mouse?"
43 Ellis Island figure
48 Lubricate
49 Midday
50 Vicinity
51 — de deux
52 Disco-era adjective
53 Stitched

DOWN
1 "The Greatest"
2 CD- —
3 Mid-May honoree
4 "Tristram Shandy" writer
5 Be apropos to
6 Greek vowels
7 Butter serving
8 Movie house
9 Vaccinated
10 "Buenos —"
11 Formerly
16 Two, in Tijuana
20 Plant prickle
21 High-five, really
22 Baldy's lack
23 Greek and Roman gods
24 Celebrity
26 "The Da Vinci —"
27 Hearty brew
28 Ennead
29 Summertime pest
31 Lost
34 Compete
35 Many autumn births
37 Suitcase
38 Sticky gunk
39 Met melody
40 Urban blight
41 No teetotaler
44 Cattle call?
45 Exist
46 Fresh
47 Bronze

Solution time: 22 mins.

M	E	S	A	■	F	U	M	■	C	R	O	P
A	M	O	R	T	I	Z	E	■	L	I	M	A
B	U	L	G	A	R	I	A	■	A	S	A	P
■	■	■	E	R	E	■	C	A	M	E	R	A
M	A	N	N	A	■	J	U	D	O	■	■	■
S	H	O	■	■	M	A	I	A	R	I	A	■
G	A	L	■	C	A	M	P	Y	■	G	I	N
■	B	A	V	A	R	I	A	■	S	O	D	A
■	■	■	E	R	I	E	■	S	T	R	A	P
W	O	R	S	E	N	■	B	A	R	■	■	■
E	L	I	S	■	A	V	E	W	A	R	I	A
N	I	L	E	■	R	E	N	E	W	A	L	S
T	O	L	L	■	A	X	E	■	S	E	E	K

Yesterday's answer 7-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Josh Radnor, 40; Wil Wheaton, 42; Martina McBride, 48; Patti Scialfa, 61.

Happy Birthday: Get back to basics. Revisit your life goals and determine how you can best reach your destination. Being reasonable about what is and what is not possible will make a difference. Emotional self-deception is apparent if you aren't willing to look at logistics, facts and figures. Strive to make gains, not throw good money into a pit. Your numbers are 2, 13, 24, 29, 31, 35, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Detail coupled with hard work will bring you the rewards you are looking for, as well as keep you out of trouble. The more you do and the less you say, the further ahead you will be. Focus on positive change. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Turn something you do well and enjoy into a moneymaking endeavor, but stay within budget and build a strong and solid base for your business venture. A little sweet talk will enable you to get some free assistance. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Emotional deception is apparent. Don't offer your cash, assistance or anything else without getting the lowdown as to where and how your contribution will be put to use. Someone will take advantage of your kindness and generosity if you aren't careful. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A conversation will lead to a new approach to the way you do things. Hook up with someone you feel is talented and work as a team. Your confidence will ensure others that you are capable of handling whatever comes your way. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make positive choices. You may feel impulsive, but consider the best way to proceed. Too much of anything will lead to regret. Focus more on learning and adding to your qualifications rather than trying to make a physical change. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't let your emotions take over. Uncertainty regarding a business or personal partnership is a clear indication that you need to make changes. Look at your options and your financial situation and consider what will make you happy. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Follow through with your plans but don't share your opinions. You will get more accomplished and avoid interference if you stay away from emotional situations that can give any competition you face an edge. Being fully prepared will be the key to your success. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Let passion lead the way. Whether you show a strong appetite for a project, person or a cause, you will draw attention. You can make a difference that will bring about change. Love is in the stars and romance will enhance your life. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keep money matters and home investments in check. Now is not the time to take a chance or make an emotional expenditure. Stick to a strict budget and course of action. Emotional deception is apparent. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Look for answers and you will recover information that can help you diminish any uncertainty you have regarding a partnership. Invest in yourself and your attributes. An old flame can create trouble if you aren't open regarding intentions. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Your interests will vary and your ability to recognize a moneymaking trend will grab attention. Consider starting a small home-based business or developing a skill that can raise your earning potential, but keep your plans simple and affordable. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't hold back. Keep everything out in the open to avoid being accused of something you didn't do. Focus on home, family and improving your financial situation. Love is on the rise and self-improvement projects will turn out well. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, intuitive and expressive. You are excitable and competitive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8			3	2		
	5		2		7		6	
7								1
1	6		3		4		7	
				5				
	3		8		9		1	2
4								6
	8		7		2		5	
		7	1			4		

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	8	3	6	4	2	1	7	5
5	4	6	1	7	8	9	3	2
2	1	7	3	9	5	8	6	4
8	6	4	9	5	1	7	2	3
1	7	5	4	2	3	6	9	8
3	9	2	7	8	6	5	4	1
7	3	9	5	1	4	2	8	6
6	5	8	2	3	9	4	1	7
4	2	1	8	6	7	3	5	9

Difficulty Level ★ 7/22

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BOGEYS AND BIRDIES AND EAGLES Solution: 7 letters

P	D	K	R	S	G	R	A	S	S	O	P	M	E	T
L	R	M	A	T	C	H	M	E	T	S	Y	S	D	H
A	O	E	T	E	T	B	L	A	S	T	S	N	I	G
Y	F	V	I	E	R	(K)	L	R	O	R	U	K	S	I
A	E	E	N	R	(O)	B	E	K	E	O	R	P	T	R
W	L	N	G	(O)	A	S	N	P	R	E	G	D	A	U
R	B	E	(H)	T	S	O	P	E	V	S	O	R	N	O
I	A	P	R	S	C	A	T	O	G	T	L	O	C	T
A	T	O	Z	K	C	E	N	A	R	N	F	C	E	R
F	S	S	D	I	M	M	S	D	R	T	A	E	F	E
S	I	O	D	P	N	A	A	R	Y	G	S	R	L	P
B	W	N	M	R	I	G	R	J	U	C	E	P	A	X
N	A	I	I	A	A	T	E	K	O	O	I	T	H	E
H	T	L	N	S	L	Y	C	R	E	R	C	L	U	B
S	G	A	L	G	H	S	E	H	T	R	S	H	O	T

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Albatross, Ball, Blast, Break, Club, Course, Distance, Even, Expert, Fairway, Finish, Golf, Grass, Half, Handicappers, Hook, Knockdown, Lags, Left, Majors, Marker, Match, Open, Over, Pitch, Play, Putts, Range, Rating, Record, Right, Round, Sandy, Score, Shot, Slam, Sport, Stableford, Stimpmeter, Store, Swing, System, Target, Tempo, Tour, Triple, Yards, Zinger

Yesterday's Answer: Sprinkler

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 27, 31, 35, 37, 38 or 39** order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Fall apart at the seams

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

(01) Healthcare Clinic System Manager
- A minimum of two to four years of work-related skill, knowledge, or experience.
- Bachelor's Degree or equivalent
- Maintains specialized computer programs relating to health care operations (medical billing, patient records, scheduler)
- Maintain all of company's computer systems to include computer hardware, computer software, and computer network and advance server skills.
- Oversees medical billing department utilizing specialized computer software.
- Oversees administrative areas and designs, develops and maintains a paperless computer system.
- Building maintenance repair, electronic record and prescription with meaningful use in compliance with Medicare and Medicaid standards.
- Performs such other duties as may be assigned.

(02) Clinic/Yard Maintenance
- Preferred skills and experience
- Building construction/renovation experience
- Must be experience in solar maintenance PV models
- Must be flexible with time schedule
- Must have a valid driver's license

(01) Ultrasound/X-Ray Technician
- Must be over five years experience in electronic health and practice partner records.
- Experience/knowledge with practice partner software in electronic health records usage.
- Must be a bachelor of science in Radiologic Technology.
- Licensed by the Medical Profession Licensing Board, CNMI
- At least five years or more experience or related field

(02) Registered Nurse
- Must pass NCLEX with current CNMI RN licensing
- At least two to five years experience
- Must hold a degree of Bachelor of Science in nursing
- English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up an application at Saipan Health Clinic located at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit an application will be on 07/25/2014 at 4:00p.m. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2903 ext. 124.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
CMI General Construction
30 Construction Workers,
1 Draftsman, 1 Comptroller/Accountant
Yuujin Store and Snack Bar
2 Cooks/Food Handler
Email resume to cmi.gencon@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Brianna's Massage
Attendant (1)
Training in Vocational school, Associate's degree or equivalent with related on-the-job experience. Must possess superb customer service, communication, and time-management skills. Can work flexible hours. Interested applicants may send resume to Gloria.fajardo65@yahoo.com. To be considered, resume must be submitted not later than August 4, 2014.

Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Electrical Supervisor - $5.55/hr
Duties: Estimate, Plan layout, Install and Prepare wiring electrical fixtures, apparatus & control equipment. Install electrical conduit. Must have 5 years experience in doing electrical works.
Send your application to: John Paul Aglubat
P.O. Box 505937, Saipan MP 96950

Job Vacancy Announcement
SASAMO USA CORPORATION
(1) ASSISTANT MANAGER
Min. of 2 yrs experience on assist of management in academy, school or tourism, 4yrs college degree, commanding of English and Korean, provide own transportation, flexible working hours.
Send resume to tnxod98@naver.com

EQUITABLE CONSULTING SERVICES
(1) FARMER
- One to Two years experience in farming
- At least a High School graduate

Interested applicants, please send resume to:
Equitable Consulting Services
Fax No.: 234-5104

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(7) **Beautician**
(7) **Cook**
(8) **Waitress**
(1) **Restaurant Manager**
(1) **General Manager**
All Applicants should have a minimum 3 years work related experience. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service, preferably knows how to speak Chinese and Japanese. Flexible working hours.
Please mail resume to:
PMB 373 Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950
or email newsic426@gmail.com.
New Star International Corporation dba Mura Ichiban Restaurant, Asahi Beauty Salon and Asahi Massage Therapy.

Job Vacancy Announcement
(4) Sales Associate
Minimum 3 years work experience.
(1) Store Manager
Minimum 5 years work related experience. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service. Preferably knows how to speak and read Chinese and Japanese. Flexible working hours.
(1) Accountant
Must have a Bachelor's degree in Accounting. Minimum 5 years work experience. Proficient in MYOB/-AccountEdge Premium Accounting Software, MS Word, Excel. Effective oral and written communication skills.
Applicants should mail their resume to PMB 1118 Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950 or email saipanbest07@gmail.com. American Saipan Best Corporation dba Saipan Best Shopping Market

Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Maintenance Worker

Salary: $5.55. Must be skilled in hand and power tools to maintain landscape, tree climbing, and cleanliness of the land.
5 years work experience.
Must be trustworthy and dependable.

Contact Mr. N.E. Pangelinan at 322-4305 between 1:00PM—5:00PM.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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- In-Service train with Baxter Phoenix Machine
- Experience with Ameriwater Bicarbonate distribution system
- Flexible with time schedule

(01) Licensed Practical Nurse
- Must pass NCLEX-LPN and current CNMI LPN License
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- One to four years hemodialysis experience or related field
- English Language skills – proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- In-service train with Baxter Phoenix Machine
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system
- Flexible with time schedule.

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up an application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit an application will be on Thursday, July 31, 2014 by 4:00pm. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2905 ext. 124.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

2 - PROJECT CIVIL WORKS TECH
College degree required with (5) years minimum work related experience. Provide technical assistance in the management, supervision, coordination, and execution of engineering and construction duties in planning, designing and maintenance of building structures and facilities including but not limited to buildings, power, plants, detention facilities, roads, drainage, airport buildings and infrastructure. Develop construction drawings, design, plans and prepare cost estimates. Confer with staff engineer in keeping the project on budget. Inspect project site and evaluate contractor work to detect design malfunctions and ensure conformance to design specifications and applicable codes. Prepare reports and document project activities and data.

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High school diploma with minimum (4) years work related experience. Must be able to diagnose and identify electrical problems using test instrument. Ability to analyze, troubleshoot and install electronic or programmable controllers, motor starters. Rewind electric motors transformers and generators. Knowledge on preventive maintenance system.

Interested qualified applicants submit complete application or resume and latest police clearance via e-mail at saipan@aicconstruction.com or mail to AIC Marianas, Inc.
PMB 564 PPP Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950
Closing date: 8/01/2014

St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc.
Job Vacancy Announcement

(04) REGISTERED NURSE
- Must pass NCLEX-RN and Current CNMI RN License
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- Must hold a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- One to five years hemodialysis experience or related field
- English Language skills-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN) – Preferred
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- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system
- Must be flexible with time schedule

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- Prefer skills training in electrical, plumbing and building trades areas
- Extensive work experience with hemodialysis/maintenance/plumbing and construction is required
- High school graduate or equivalent
- Must have a valid driver's license

(02) WATER TREATMENT TECHNICIAN
- Must be able to perform task which may at first glance not appear difficult but required a high degree of knowledge and experience to properly operate and maintain system
- Operational knowledge of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems
- Knowledge of the theory fluid dynamics
- Understand the mathematical relationships and common formulas of basic water treatment and distribution systems
- Know the specific operations of the water treatment and distribution systems unique to a dialysis unit
- Be familiar with infection control of hemodialysis facilities
- Be familiar with safety and life safety policies
- Pass the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency text for certified water treatment and distribution operators level II
- Understand the plumbing code and plumbing techniques
- Be able to demonstrate safe working techniques for working with pressure vessels
- Bea able to demonstrate proper plumbing techniques for working with the pressure vessels
- Be able to demonstrate proper plumbing techniques especially when working with pvc
- To accept and perform all other duties as may be assigned

(02) COMMERCIAL CLEANER
- Operates various mechanized cleaning equipment, such as vacuums, polishers, buffers, etc
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- Requires working in damp, dusty and dirty areas. Must clean up human waste and other body fluids, as required
- Responsible for disposal of trash, waste and other disposable materials
- Must handle various cleaning solvents and chemicals that is required by Medicare
- Damp dust furniture, light fixtures, window, etc
- Empty trash containers daily
- Wet mop floors and bathrooms daily. Damp mop all corridor floors, lobby and others daily
- Report any needed repairs immediately
- Check entire area for spills, water, etc., periodically, especially in patients' areas and lobby
- Use safety precautions in all housekeeping services
- Is required to clean employee's house prior to and post occupancy
- Is required to maintain and clean in an orderly manner at Business, Dr.'s, Accounting, Dietician, and Clinic Manager's Offices
- Must be able to work flexible hours
- Must have own transportation

Interested applicants must submit application or resume to St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., at Chalan Kiya, Saipan.
Deadline to submit application will be on 8/11/2014 at 4:00pm. For more information,
please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2903 ext. 124.

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Nibali second Italian to win Tour de France

PARIS (AP)—Vincenzo Nibali put his lungs and legs to work one last time, marching up to the winner's podium of the Tour de France and sighing deeply before the Italian anthem echoed over the Champs-Elysees.

Chants of "Vin-cen-zo!" rang across the famed avenue for the Sicilian, who dominated the race nearly from the start three weeks ago and on Sunday became the first Italian to win cycling's greatest race since Marco Pantani in 1998.

Marcel Kittel of Germany won Stage 21 in a sprint, his fourth victory this year. Nibali cruised in 24 seconds later, easily retaining a lead of more than seven minutes on his closest rival. He received pats on the back, kissed his wife and infant daughter and was mobbed by cameras.

"Now that I find myself on the highest step on the Champs-Elysees podium, it's more beautiful than I ever imagined," Nibali, the Arc de Triomphe behind him, told the crowd. "I've never been this moved in all my life."

Nibali, likened by some as the emperor of the pack, conquered where others did not: notably Chris Froome of Britain, the 2013 Tour winner, and two-time champion Alberto Contador of Spain. Both crashed out with injuries before the halfway mark.

As if mountain climbs, bone-jarring cobblestones, crashes and rain-splattered rides weren't enough, Nibali faced the scrutiny that comes with the yellow jersey in a sport long damaged by drugs.

Nibali, who calls himself "a flag-bearer of anti-doping," noted that his success came through pinpoint focus on this race as the season began and opportunistic attacks in which he was able to nibble seconds on his rivals. There were no eye-popping performances, as was the case when doping was so prevalent.

The Astana team leader is only the sixth rider to win all three Grand Tours—France, Italy and Spain. His win comes 16 years after Pantani, a flamboyant rider, died from a drug overdose.

Nibali won four stages—a feat not equaled by a Tour winner since Lance Armstrong won five a decade ago. The Italian wore the yellow jersey for all but two stages since Stage 1. His 7-minute, 37-second margin over runner-up Jean-Christophe Peraud equals that of Armstrong over Swiss rider Alex Zulle in 1999—a result nullified because of doping. Before that, the biggest margin was that of Germany's Jan Ullrich: He beat Richard Virenque by just more than nine minutes in 1997.

In one of the subplots of this race, Peraud and third-placed Thibaut Pinot became the first Frenchmen to reach the Tour podium since Virenque in that year - a fact not lost on many homegrown fans. Pinot was 8:15 behind.

Armstrong, Ullrich and Virenque were caught in nearly a generation of doping scandals. Armstrong, in cycling's biggest scandal, admitted to doping and was stripped of his record seven Tour titles.

Nibali and many others in the peloton say that era is past. But his own victories in the 2010 Vuelta and the Italian Giro last year were tarnished by doping involving other riders. Cycling's governing body has made great efforts to halt drug use, but few cycling experts believe the pack is fully clean.

Authorities in Italy and France have been among the most aggressive in cracking down on doping, and the victory of an Italian, followed by two Frenchmen, could be a sign the peloton is getting cleaner.

Some suggested that Nibali was just the best among the riders still in this Tour. Colombia's Nairo Quintana, who won the Giro d'Italia in May, didn't ride. Bradley Wiggins, the 2012 Tour winner, was passed over so his Sky Team could focus on Froome. Then Froome and Contador pulled out.

But even before they left, Nibali had a two-second lead on them by winning Stage 2. Then, in Stage 5 after Froome crashed out, the Italian excelled on cobblestone patches that slowed Contador, who lost more than 2 1/2 minutes to Nibali. The Spaniard felt compelled to attack.

AP

Race winner Vincenzo Nibali of Italy, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, celebrates on the podium of the Tour de France in Paris, France, Sunday, July 27, 2014.

Byron Scott says he'll be Lakers' new coach

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers have waited nearly three months to hire a new coach, and they're apparently making Byron Scott wait a few more days.

Scott said this weekend that he has been hired by the Lakers, but the club insisted Sunday that no deal has been reached.

Scott, who won three NBA titles as a shooting guard for the Lakers, told KCBS-TV he will take over the club, which hasn't had a coach since Mike D'Antoni resigned April 30.

"It feels fantastic," he told KCBS. "This is a dream come true. I always wanted to coach the Lakers, especially when I got to coaching. It's so unreal. I have to thank (general manager) Mitch (Kupchak), (owners) Jeanie and Jim Buss to give me this opportunity."

Yet Kupchak and the Buss siblings remained mum Sunday, extending their strange coach-less summer to the final days of July.

ESPN.com first reported Scott would take over the Lakers with a four-year, $17 million contract.

Scott is undoubtedly qualified for the job after stints as a head coach with New Jersey, New Orleans and Cleveland. He was Kobe Bryant's teammate during Bryant's rookie year with the Lakers in 1996-97, and the superstar endorsed Scott for the job earlier this month.

"He was my rookie mentor when I first came in the league, so I had to do things like get him doughnuts and run errands for him, things like that," said Bryant, who played just six games last season. "We've had a tremendously close relationship throughout the years."

Scott also spent last season as a television commentator on the Lakers' own network, watching the franchise's implosion up close.

Los Angeles finished 27-55 last season, compiling the most losses in the 16-time NBA champions' history. The Lakers had their worst winning percentage since the Minneapolis Lakers' 1957-58 season, missing the playoffs for just the third time in 38 seasons as the NBA's most glamorous franchise was reduced to ineptitude.

Scott will be the Lakers' fifth head coach in just over three years, starting with Phil Jackson's departure after the 2010-11 season. D'Antoni, who replaced Mike Brown and interim coach Bernie Bickerstaff, resigned after going 67-87 in less than two seasons in charge.

Scott has been a head coach for parts of 13 NBA seasons, going 416-521 with the Nets, Hornets and Cavaliers. He led New Jersey to back-to-back Eastern Conference championships in 2002 and 2003, losing the NBA finals each time.

Scott has won three division titles and was the NBA's coach of the year in 2008, but he also has been fired from each of his three jobs.

Several candidates for the coaching job interviewed with the Lakers over the past three months, including Lionel Hollins and George Karl. Scott has been widely considered the front-runner for the job for several weeks, but Kupchak and Jim Buss appeared to be more focused on the NBA draft and free agency.

Los Angeles landed Kentucky power forward Julius Randle with the seventh overall pick in the draft, but struck out on every big-name free agent despite aggressively courting Carmelo Anthony and entertaining dreams of landing LeBron James.

LeBron will be No. 23 with Cavaliers

LeBron James will go back to wearing jersey No. 23 in his return to Cleveland.

James tweeted "23 it is! It's only right I go back. 2 3(equals)6 We still family 6." The tweet included an Instagram post with photos of James holding his No. 23 Cavaliers jersey on draft night, him later in a new version of the Cavs' jersey and a one of him in his high school jersey.

James wore No. 6 in four seasons with Miami and with the U.S. Olympic team. He used No. 23 in high school and during seven seasons in Cleveland.

About 10 days ago, James turned to social media to help him choose which number he'll wear next season with the Cavaliers. James wrote "6 or 23...." on his Twitter account.

Meanwhile, Andrew Wiggins has an NBA home. Maybe a temporary one.

The Cavaliers signed the No. 1 overall draft pick Thursday, a deal that prevents Wiggins from being traded for 30 days.

Wiggins has been linked to a possible blockbuster trade with Minnesota for All-Star forward Kevin Love. But any deal now involving Wiggins can't be finalized for at least 30 days.

The Cavs and Timberwolves have had talks about a trade involving Love for months, long before Cleveland selected Wiggins, the former Kansas standout, with the first pick in May's draft. Those discussions have intensified lately, and the sides can still reach an agreement on a trade but nothing can be finalized until late August.

Now that Wiggins is under contract, the league's seldom-used 30-day rule is in effect.

It was designed to prevent teams from circumventing salary cap rules. There have been restrictions placed on trading newly signed rookies dating back at least to the 1998-99 collective bargaining agreement. At that time, rookies were lumped in with all free agents into a rule that prevents any newly signed player from being traded for three months or before Dec. 15 of the next season—whichever is longer.

Dodgers complete sweep of Giants

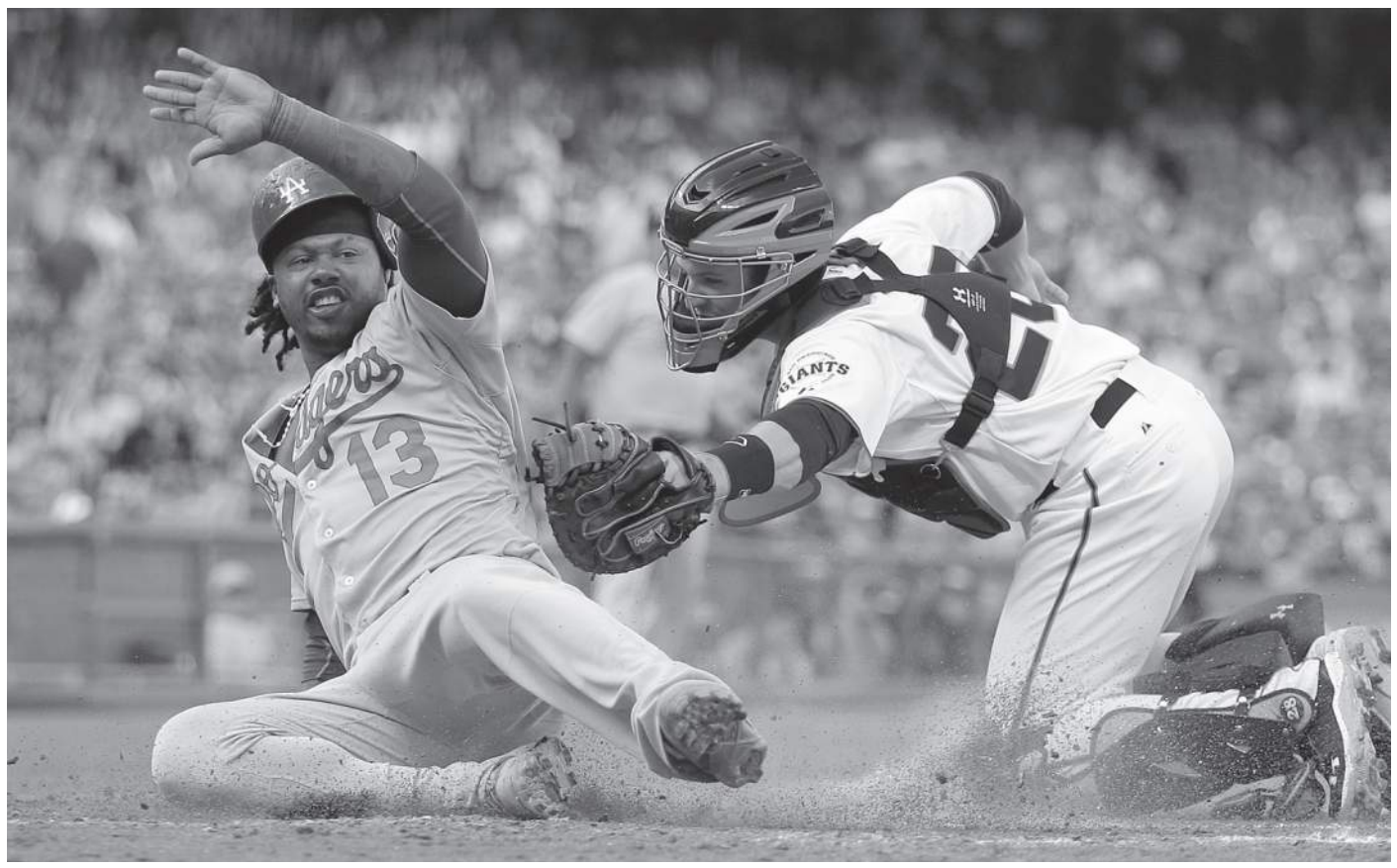
SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Carl Crawford hit an RBI triple to back Ryu Hyun-jin's third straight victory as the division-leading Los Angeles Dodgers completed a sweep of the San Francisco Giants with a 4-3 victory Sunday.

Ryu (12-5) moved within two wins of his rookie total last year and improved to 4-1 in five outings at AT&T Park, where in one dominant weekend the Dodgers made quite a statement to take over the NL West's top spot.

In his Giants debut, Jake Peavy threw a pair of wild pitches in the fifth as the Dodgers went ahead on Hanley Ramirez's RBI single ahead of Crawford's triple to the corner in deep right field.

Matt Kemp singled twice and the Dodgers leave the Bay Area with a 1 1/2-game division lead after outscoring the Giants 17-4.

San Francisco suffered its first three-game sweep in the rivalry since June 24-26, 2013, at Dodger Stadium. The last Dodgers sweep at AT&T Park came July 27-29, 2012.



AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Hanley Ramirez, left, scores past San Francisco Giants catcher Buster Posey in the fifth inning of a baseball game Sunday, July 27, 2014, in San Francisco. Ramirez scored on a triple by Carl Crawford.

Phillies 4, Diamondbacks 2

In Philadephia, Ryan Howard homered in his second game since a three-game benching and scored the go-ahead run on an overturned call at the plate as Philadelphia beat Arizona.

With the score 2-2 in the sixth, Howard walked with two outs against Vidal Nuno (0-2). Marlon Byrd popped up to short right field, where second baseman Didi Gregorius backpedaled slowly, settled under the ball and allowed it to kick off his glove and bounce toward center.

Nationals 4, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Doug Fister (10-2) allowed three hits in seven shutout innings and Adam LaRoche drove in two runs and Anthony Rendon added an RBI single in the ninth. Cincinnati has lost eight of nine since the All-Star break while hitting .178 (50-for-281) in that span.

Devin Mesoraco's two-run double in the ninth inning off Rafael Soriano allowed the Reds to avoid their 11th shutout loss. Soriano regrouped to get the final three outs for his 200th save.

Mets 2, Brewers 0

In Milwaukee, Lucas Duda hit a two-run homer in the sixth off Jimmy Nelson (1-2), Duda's third homer in four days in Milwaukee.

Rookie Jacob deGrom (5-5) allowed four hits in 6 1-3 innings. Jenrry Mejia got his 15th save when Lyle Overbay grounded out with two on.

Cardinals 1, Cubs 0

In Chicago, Adam Wainwright (13-5) allowed five hits in seven innings and Matt Holliday homered in the first off rookie Kyle Hendricks (1-1).

Trevor Rosenthal pitched the ninth for his 32nd save, completing a six-hitter.

St. Louis won two of three at the Cubs, who have not won a series at Wrigley Field since taking two of three from Miami from June 6-8.

Braves 8, Padres 3

In Atlanta, Chris Johnson and Ryan Doumit each drove in two runs during Atlanta's six-run third inning.

Mike Minor (4-6) allowed three runs and eight hits in 6 2-3 innings, and Atlanta roughed up Eric Stults (3-13 for six runs and six hits in six innings.

A few thousand fans arrived early to watch the Hall of Fame ceremonies on the Turner Field video board. Among the inductees were former Braves managers Bobby Cox and Joe Torre and pitchers Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux.

Pirates 7, Rockies 5

In Denver, Josh Harrison had four hits, including an eighth-inning homer on the first pitch by Rex Brothers (3-5) that broke a 5-5 tie. Gregory Polanco homered four pitches later.

Tony Watson (7-1) gave up a run in two innings of relief to get the win and Mark Melancon worked the ninth for his 19th save.

Red Sox 3, Rays 2

In St. Petersburgh, David Ortiz hit a three-run homer as the Boston Red Sox beat Tampa Bay 3-2 Sunday to end a five-game losing streak and stop the Rays' longest winning streak in 10 years at nine games.

Ortiz's 25th home run came in the third off Chris Archer (6-6) after a walk and Dustin Pedroia's infield single. Ortiz's homer was his fifth in seven games and his 29th at Tropicana Field, most among visiting players.

Blue Jays 5, Yankees 4

In New York, Dioner Navarro hit a go-ahead single with two outs in the ninth asToronto rallied after wasting three leads for its first series win in the Bronx since Aug. 27-29, 2012.

After snapping a 17-game skid at Yankee Stadium on Saturday, Toronto did not relent in the humidity. Jose Bautista reached on a fielder's choice against David Robertson (1-3) in the ninth, stole second without a throw and scored on Navarro's liner to center field.

Athletics 9, Rangers 3

In Arlington, John Jaso drove in three runs as Oakland downed Texas 9-3.

Jaso had a run-scoring single during the Athletics' five-run second inning and added a two-run double in the fifth. Oakland's first three batters — Jaso, Stephen Vogt and Yoenis Cespedes — each had a double and a single, and Josh Reddick added three singles.

Scott Kazmir (12-3) moved into a tie for the American League lead while allowing seven hits in five innings. He walked two and struck out two.

Marlins 4, Astros 2

In Houston, Garrett Jones and Marcell Ozuna homered for Miami, which completed a three game sweep. Houston has lost five in a row and eight of 10.

Jones' homer capped a three-run first for the Marlins, and Ozuna padded the lead with his solo shot in the sixth. Miami has won seven of eight following a six-game skid.

Twins 4, White Sox 3

In Minneapolis, Sam Fuld hit a tiebreaking, two-run single off Javy Guerra in a three-run seventh inning as Minnesota avoided a four-game sweep.

Danny Santana had two RBIs for the last-place Twins, who won for just the 11th time in their last 30 games.

Chicago led 2-1 in the seventh when Minnesota loaded the bases against Ronald Belisario (3-7).

Indians10, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Carlos Santana hit a pair of two-run homers, giving him six homers in six games as Cleveland ended Kansas City's winning streak at five games.

Ryan Raburn and Yan Gomes also homered for the Indians, who stopped their four-game losing streak and ended Kansas City's five-game winning streak.

Angels 2, Tigers 1

In Anaheim, David Freese hit a tiebreaking homer off Joba Chamberlain (1-4) in the eighth inning as Los Angeles won its third straight.

Erick Aybar scored from second base on Rick Porcello's poor pickoff throw in the fifth for the Angels, who improved the majors' second-best record to 63-41 in the finale of a 10-game homestand.

Orioles 3, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Manny Machado lifted a bases-loaded sacrifice fly in the 10th off Yoervis Medina (4-2), who was pitching on his 26th birthday. Adam Jones had led off with a double, and Nelson Cruz and Chris Davis walked.

Baltimore took three of four in the series, twice winning in extra innings. T.J. McFarland (4-2) worked one inning for the victory, and Zach Britton struck out the side in the 10th for his 20th save.

Big Hurt, Joe Torre headline HOF class

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. (AP)—Frank Thomas choked back tears, Joe Torre apologized for leaving people out of his speech and Tony La Russa said he felt uneasy.

Being enshrined in the Hall of Fame can have those effects, even on the greats.

Thomas, pitchers Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux, and managers Bobby Cox, Torre and La Russa were inducted into the baseball shrine Sunday, and all paid special tribute to their families before an adoring crowd of nearly 50,000.

"I'm speechless. Thanks for having me in your club," Thomas said, getting emotional as he remembered his late father. "Frank Sr., I know you're watching. Without you, I know 100 percent I wouldn't be here in Cooperstown today. You always preached to me, `You can be someone special if you really work at it.' I took that to heart, Pop."

"Mom, I thank you for all the motherly love and support. I know it wasn't easy."

The 46-year old Thomas, the first player elected to the Hall who spent more than half of his time as a designated hitter, batted .301 with 521 home runs and 1,704 RBIs in a 19-year career mostly with the Chicago White Sox. He's the only player in major league history to log seven straight seasons with a .300 average, 20 homers, 100 RBIs and 100 walks.

Ever the diplomat as a manager, Torre somehow managed to assuage the most demanding of owners in George Steinbrenner, maintaining his coolness amid all the Bronx craziness while keeping all those egos in check after taking over in 1996. The result: 10 division titles, six AL pennants and four World Series triumphs in 12 years as he helped restore the luster to baseball's most successful franchise and resurrected his own career after three firings.

Torre, the only man to amass more than 2,000 hits (2,342) and win more than 2,000 games as a manager, was last to speak, and in closing delivered a familiar message.

"Baseball is a game of life. It's not perfect, but it feels like it is," said the 74-year-old Torre, who apologized afterward for forgetting to include the Steinbrenner family in his speech. "That's the magic of it. We are responsible for giving it the respect it deserves. Our sport is part of the American soul, and it's ours to borrow - just for a while."

"If all of us who love baseball and are doing our jobs, then those who get the game from us will be as proud to be a part of it as we were. And we are. This game is a gift, and I am humbled, very humbled, to accept its greatest honor."

The day was a reunion of sorts for the city of Atlanta. Glavine, Maddux and Cox were part of a remarkable run of success by the Braves. They won an unprecedented 14 straight division titles and made 15 playoff appearances, winning the city's lone major professional sports title.

"I'm truly humbled to stand here before you," Cox said. "To Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux, and I have to mention the third member of the big three - John Smoltz - I can honestly say I would not be standing here if it weren't for you guys."

Smoltz, part of the MLB Network telecast of the event and eligible for induction next year, flashed a smile in return for the compliment.

Glavine started when the Braves won Game 6 to clinch the 1995 World Series, pitching one-hit ball over eight innings in a 1-0 victory over Cleveland. And the slender lefty was one of those rare athletes, drafted by the Braves and the Los Angeles Kings of the National Hockey League.

Fiesta noses out PIC; World Resort wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and World Resort Saipan registered contrasting wins in the 2014 Budweiser Inter-Hotel Basketball League last Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

World Resort coasted past Mariana Resort in the curtain-raiser, 74-38, while Fiesta pulled off a nail-biter over Pacific Islands Club in the second game, 77-76.

Djay Ong lifted Fiesta to the close win, as he collared an offensive rebound in the closing seconds of the tight match and made a layup. PIC had the last shot, but failed to cash in to drop to a 1-1 record, while Fiesta improved to a perfect 3-0 card.

Ong finished with a team-high 16 points for Fiesta. Jared Matsutaro matched Ong's output, teaming up with the lanky forward in the fourth-quarter assault. Matsutaro scored eight of Fiesta's last 10 points and 14 of his total production in the final canto. Fiesta exploded for 32 big points in the fourth period after scoring no more than 19 in each of the first three frames.

Fiesta's fourth-quarter push allowed the team to come back from a 45-50 deficit at the end of the third canto. PIC closed out the third and turned a two-point halftime lead, 37-35, to a five-point cushion after James Abuy unloaded back-to-back triples and Ham Hambros nailed a pair of free throws.

PIC tried to keep the upper hand, but failed, as Matsutaro led Fiesta's comeback, which Ong completed with the two big plays.

Darwin Barbo top-scored for PIC with his 30 markers, but was held to one field goal in the fourth and had to earn his points from the foul line.

In the first game, World Resort held Mariana Resort to single digit in scoring in the first and fourth quarter en route to the 36-point winning margin—the biggest so far in the revived league.

World Resort doubled up Mariana Resort right at the first period for an 18-7 advantage and was in full control of the match by the end of the first half, enjoying a comfortable 35-20 lead.

Eugene Manglona paced World Resort with his 13 points, while John Lewis and Dennis Vinas chipped in 12 each. Jomar Danas added 10 for World Resort, which moved up to a 1-2 mark, while Mariana Resort fell to a 0-2 slate. Ryan Manglona led Mariana Resort with his 18 points.

First Game

World Resort 74 – Manglona 13, Lewis 12, Vinas 12, Danas 10, Bernardo 5, Mostales 4, Caruana 4, Sumpay 3, Valle 3, Tiamzon 2.

Mariana Resort 38 – Manglona 18, Gatdula 6, Bansil 4, Camacho 4, Piadozo 4, Capuli 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-7, 35-20, 59-30, 74-38.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Roland Galag pulls up for a short jumper against World Resort's Kae Bernardo during their game in the opening week of the Inter-Hotel league mid this month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Fiesta and World Resort downed separate foes last Thursday.

Second Game

Fiesta 77 – Ong 16, Matsutaro 16, Esdrelon 14, Macoto 8, Galag 7, Quizon 2.

PIC 76 – Barbo 30, Demapan 12, Abuy 10, Aranda 7, Quitugua 5, Hambros 4, Babauta 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-12, 35-37, 45-50, 77-76.

Amir Khan wants shot at Pacquiao

Manny Pacquiao takes on Chris Algieri in his next fight, but many believe that the Filipino fighter will win the match against the relative unknown.

More attention is being paid for Pacquiao's next-next fight, in 2015. There was bolstered speculation that Pacquiao will finally fight Floyd Mayweather in the spring after Mayweather's father reportedly told someone that Mayweather wants the money such a fight would bring.

If Pacquiao does indeed beat Algieri, there aren't that many candidates left that are viable opponents. One of the fighters that is a viable opponent besides Mayweather is Amir Khan, who may have fought Mayweather if not for the timing of the fight (Khan said he wouldn't be ready for a September fight because of Ramadan).

Khan last beat Luis Collazo in his first contest at welterweight and recently revealed that he'll fight in December.

CNMI

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to two at the top of the third, but Guam remained in contention, as the latter finally broke the ice at the bottom of the fourth. Guam lit up the board with Jones manning the mound, but that was it for CNMI's rival, as Camacho closed out for the Commonwealth and had a strong finish to move his team to one win away from securing the gold medal in the quadrennial event.

The CNMI-Guam tiff is a rematch of the 2006 Micronesian Games Saipan hosted and the Commonwealth bets are aiming for a repeat of their 3-2 triumph over Guam. A win against Guam today will bring back the baseball gold the CNMI lost to host Palau in the 2010 Micro Games. Going in today's finale, the CNMI and Guam are even, as the latter earlier notched a 3-2 victory versus the former in the elimination round to top the field with a perfect 4-0 record. The CNMI swept its first three games in the elimination before losing to Guam last Friday.

Stuck to 32 medals

The CNMI still has 32 medals (14 golds, 14 silvers, and 4 bronzes) as of 6pm yesterday after the Commonwealth's paddlers faltered on their bid in the long distance canoe race at the Lidakihka Beach.

The CNMI Paddling Team bowed out of the competition in the 15K event, while Pohnpei took the gold in both the men's and women's divisions. Palau and Yap got the silver and bronze in the men's event, while Guam and Palau grabbed the silver and bronze in the women's category.

With no medals to show in Day 8 of the Micro Games, the CNMI remained in sixth place in the medal board. Guam still leads the Games with its 37-26-10 tally, followed by Pohnpei (34-41-32), Marshall Islands (33-20-31), Palau (31-24-31), and Yap (17-21-15). Kosrae (4-3-10), Nauru (3-9-4), Chuuk (3-4-8), and Kiribati (0-0-0) complete the field.

Meanwhile, the CNMI lost both games in basketball yesterday. The Commonwealth bowed to Chuuk in the battle for fifth place in the men's division, while the CNMI cagebelles fell to Guam in the women's division semifinals. The CNMI women's team will play the winner of the Marshall Islands-Pohnpei match for the bronze medal today.

BLUE

From Page 28

last Wednesday, 2-1, to bag its first victory in an international tournament. It was recorded after the Blue Ayuyus came from a 0-4 loss to Mongolia. Some of the Commonwealth players were in disarray on defense against Mongolia, but after their debut loss, they got back into their groove and pulled off the upset.

"We met after the game against Mongolia and made sure we know how to play our offense and defense in our next game (versus Macau). The players followed the instructions and we're able to get the win," Sekiguchi said.

Just the beginning

The victory was unexpected, according to NMIFA president Jerry Tan, since Macau has a strong team and even forced eventual winner Guam to a scoreless draw a few days before the CNMI dueled the former Portuguese colony.

"Guam could not beat Macau so we never expected our team to win. However we did it and it goes to show that the ball is round, anything can happen," said Tan, who compared the Blue Ayuyus to World Cup champion Germany.

"Germany won the World Cup without star players. We don't have star players—individuals who really stand out—but we have a group with excellent teamwork. They played very well together and watched each other's back. The team capitalized on the opportunity presented to them and never gave up even though Macau scored first," Tan added.

Macau scored in the 14th minute, but failed to hang on to the lead, as Nick Swaim and Kirk Schuler delivered for the CNMI.

The upset against Macau is just a beginning of more good things for CNMI football, according to Tan and a proof that the Commonwealth is doing the right thing as far as the development of the sport is concerned.

"We're progressing slowly and gradually. We're definitely moving forward and I am very proud of what we accomplished in nine years. Our neighbors and other countries have between 50 to 80 years of football history, while Hong Kong just celebrated its 100 years. We're only on our ninth year and still a baby , but we've come a long way. This is just the beginning and we will strive harder to improve our players and our program," the NMIFA head said.

The CNMI's program is focused on the youth and both Tan and Sekiguchi acknowledged its significance to the recent success of the CNMI Men's National Team.

"The CNMI will become an even stronger team because of its grassroots and youth development programs," Sekiguchi said.

"We have to take note that several players who suited up for out men's team are products of our youth league/youth program, so we have to continue strengthening our youth development program to get more good results in future international competitions," said Tan, who thanked Sekiguchi for steering the Blue Ayuyus to the historic win.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	58	46	.558	—
Toronto	56	50	.528	3
New York	54	50	.519	4
Tampa Bay	51	54	.486	7½
Boston	48	57	.457	10½

Central Division

Detroit	57	45	.559	—
Kansas City	53	51	.510	5
Cleveland	52	53	.495	6½
Chicago	51	55	.481	8
Minnesota	47	57	.452	11

West Division

Oakland	65	39	.625	—
Los Angeles	63	41	.606	2
Seattle	54	51	.514	11½
Houston	42	63	.400	23½
Texas	41	64	.390	24½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	57	45	.559	—
Atlanta	57	48	.543	1½
Miami	51	53	.490	7
New York	50	55	.476	8½
Philadelphia	46	59	.438	12½

Central Division

Milwaukee	59	47	.557	—
St. Louis	56	48	.538	2
Pittsburgh	55	49	.529	3
Cincinnati	52	52	.500	6
Chicago	42	61	.408	15½

West Division

Los Angeles	59	47	.557	—
San Francisco	57	48	.543	1½
San Diego	46	58	.442	12
Arizona	45	60	.429	13½
Colorado	43	61	.413	15

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup

PHOTOS BY GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

CNMI players stay put as the Commonwealth anthem is played before their game against Guam in the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup at the Guam Football Association Training Centre in Harmon last week.

CNMI goalkeeper and captain Johann Noetzel shakes hands with Guam's Ryan Guy before the start of their match.

CNMI players pile up to celebrate the historic win over Macau, 2-1.

The CNMI's Daniel Agulto keeps a close watch on a Guam player.

The CNMI's Jireh Yobech catches up with Guam's Thaddeus Atalig.

The CNMI's Kirk Schuler, right, chases a Macau player, while goalie Johann Noetzel anticipates the attack.

CNMI defenders get ready for Guam's free kick.

CNMI goalie Johann Noetzel stops the ball.

The CNMI's Jonathan Takano steps in to play defense on Guam's Ryan Guy.

Several CNMI players and official pose for a photo during the awards ceremony for the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup.

Nibali second Italian to win Tour de France

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Dodgers complete sweep of Giants

PAGE 25

CNMI goes for gold in baseball

THE KASELEHLIE PRESS
CNMI catcher Manny Sablan secures the ball and checks the runner before making any move during an earlier game against Pohnpei in the 8th Micronesian Games last week at the Daini Field. The CNMI is in the finals, following a 2-1 win over Guam yesterday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI advanced to the gold medal game in the baseball competition of the 8th Micronesian Games after nipping Guam, 2-1, in the semis match yesterday morning at the Daini Field in Pohnpei.

8TH MICRO GAMES 2014 POHNPEI FSM

The Commonwealth sluggers will gun for the gold medal today when they face Guam anew in the 10am title match. Guam earned a second crack at the CNMI and the last finals berth after downing Palau, 5-2, in the afternoon match yesterday.

Joshua Jones and Brian Camacho pitched for the CNMI with the former starting out for the squad and shutting down Guam in the first three innings. Jones pitched four innings and struck out five before giving up the mound for Camacho, who also prevented Guam from scoring in the last three innings, while striking out three.

The CNMI-Guam duel for the first finals seat finally took place yesterday morning after back-to-back (Saturday and Sunday) cancellations due to heavy rains. Both teams showed some rust because of the two-day break before the CNMI gain some cushion midway at the top of the first inning. The Tony Rogolifoi-managed squad got two hits and one run at the top of the first and silenced Guam at the bottom for the precarious 1-0 lead.

Information provided at the event's website did not indicate who scored for the CNMI or who made the two hits, but *Saipan Tribune* learned Tyrone Omar had three hits for the Commonwealth, while catcher Manny Sablan recorded an RBI. The CNMI made two more hits at the top of the second, but failed to score, holding the shaky one-run advantage.

The CNMI lead was stretched

See CNMI on Page 26

8th Micronesian Games
MEDAL TALLY
As of 6pm July 23, 2014
Countries | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total
Guam | 37 | 26 | 10 | 73
Pohnpei | 34 | 41 | 32 | 107
RMI | 33 | 20 | 31 | 84
Palau | 31 | 24 | 31 | 86
Yap | 17 | 21 | 15 | 53
CNMI | 14 | 14 | 4 | 32
Kosrae | 4 | 3 | 10 | 17
Nauru | 3 | 9 | 4 | 16
Chuuk | 3 | 4 | 8 | 15
Kiribati | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
The Best 4G Experience Has Arrived! IT&E

Blue Ayuyus share glory of historic win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association

The glory of the CNMI Men's National Team's historic win in the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup in Guam belonged not only to the squad, but also to all the supporters of football in the Commonwealth.

"The win is not only for the players who played against Macau, but also to all the people who have been supporting CNMI soccer since 2005," coach Kiyoshi Sekuguchi said.

The coach is talking of Northern Mariana Islands Football Association officials and staffs, coaches, players' parents, referees, heads of private companies, and other individuals who are doing their part in promoting the sport in the CNMI. Even those who cheered for the Blue Ayuyus from their home, sending good luck messages via Facebook, or those who went to Guam to watch the games were part of the squad's recent triumph.

The CNMI defeated Macau in the EAFF-sanctioned event

See BLUE on Page 26

GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
CNMI players pay their respect to the CNMI flag during the singing of the Commonwealth anthem before their game against Macau in the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup last week at the Guam Football Association Training Centre in Harmon.